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# THE TIMES

30p

No. 65,470

MONDAY JANUARY 8 1996

THE  
SCIENCE  
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## Parents to sign formal contracts with school heads

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

ALL parents will have a formal contract with their children's school under plans outlined yesterday by the Prime Minister, who is eager to trump Labour's growing emphasis on civic duties.

John Major promised a raft of education reforms, beginning today with an ending of the limits on schools' power to select pupils. He also wants headteachers to be given the power to make the

contracts a condition of admission, according to ministerial sources. The move would give the contracts binding force and mean that parents who failed to keep their side of the agreement would be putting their children's position in the school at risk. Under the contracts proposed by Labour, parents agree to ensure that their children regularly attend school and do their homework. They will also do all they can to ensure that the children behave. Thousands of schools already

expect parents to sign contracts before their children are admitted. Mr Major, interviewed on BBC TV's *Breakfast with Frost*, said contracts would be introduced nationally to ensure closer collaboration between home and school. Labour made a similar pledge last month and immediately accused the Government of stealing its policies. Gillian Shephard, Education and Employment Secretary, last week emphasised the importance of parental involvement, but

appeared to rule out legislation. John Patten, Mrs Shephard's predecessor, promised an extension of home-school contracts in 1993, but doubts about the practicalities of a national system ensured that the scheme was stillborn. Now concern about violence in and around schools has added to the pressure for action. Although schools would have no legal powers to enforce contracts, new guidelines would give teachers greater authority to demand parental support before they are forced to

exclude troublemakers. Parents would also have the right to a clear statement of a school's aims. Head teachers have been calling for almost a decade for greater support for contracts. David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "The Department has been far too slow to adopt contracts as a fundamental way to improve liaison between home and school. To be successful nationally, they need a lot of Government support." Parents' representatives and other

union leaders were less enthusiastic. Margaret Morrissey, the spokeswoman of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, said Mr Major was "using a sledgehammer to crack a nut". Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters, Union of Women Teachers, said the scheme would lead to more red tape. Mrs Shephard is expected to draw back from legislating for church schools to become grant-maintained without balloting par-

Leading article, page 17

## Unite or we fall, Major tells MPs

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR publicly accepted the possibility of a general election defeat for the first time yesterday when he told Conservatives that they would lose unless they ended their internal battles and pulled together.

Delivering his grimmest warning yet of the dangers of the disputes that have resurfaced since the defection of Emma Nicholson, the Prime Minister said it would be folly to hand power to a Labour Party that had opposed everything the Tories had done for 16 years.

The Conservative Party was a broad church capable of accommodating both Left and Right, and it would continue to fight on a centre-right, not a far-right agenda. No party he led would be "captured" by extremists on either wing, he said.

But while Mr Major urged all his party to join him in a "battle royal" against Labour, insisting that the election was there to be won, Tony Blair declared that Conservatives were "finished as a serious political governing force".

He said that Mr Major's interview on BBC Television's *Breakfast with Frost* programme was not that of a leader of a country, but of a leader trying to hold together two incompatible wings of his party. Speaking in the Far East, Mr Blair said: "He desperately pleaded for unity. But they cannot unite around policies, so they are forced to try to unite around attacking Labour."

Mr Blair's long-distance campaigning will intensify today when he tells an audience in Singapore that Labour is the one-nation party in Britain with the policies for joining the country together with shared power, wealth and opportunity.

Although the election could be 16 months away, yesterday's exchanges confirmed that senior politicians are thinking of little else.

Mr Major's assessment was

stark. He told Sir David Frost: "This election is here to be won. But it is also there to be lost. If the Conservative Party does not realise the opportunities that lie ahead and throws it away by disputes within itself, then it will lose the election."

"The British electorate does not like parties that squabble with themselves. They don't like it and there is no need for it because this party is hovering in the centre-right, it has always been in the centre-right and it is staying in the centre-right."

"To throw it away and permit the election of a party which has opposed everything we have done over the past 16 years or so... and to throw away all the economic advantages in front of us must be folly."

"I would say to my colleagues, there is a big picture, there is a national interest here. There is a great deal we still have to do. What they should do is join us in exposing the divisions in the Labour Party. Come and join me in that battle. It is going to be a battle royal over the next year. It is one we can and will win, but we need all our party to help us to do so."

Mr Major, who dismissed Labour as "soulless" and "an empty box", gave the clearest hints of the strategy that he will use against Mr Blair's party in the run-up to the election. He said that it would be a terrible gamble to replace a government that had weathered the storm of the recession with an untried Labour team.

"To throw away the pilots that have done that, and to replace them with pilots who have no experience even of taking a rubber dinghy on the Serpentine would be a rather reckless choice."

He doubted whether the economic improvement would be sustained under Labour; inflation, interest rates and

Continued on page 2, col 3



THE Prince of Wales trying snowboarding, the youthful alternative to skiing favoured by the generation brought up with skateboards, in the Swiss resort of Klosters yesterday.

At 47 the Prince is a little old to learn a sport that involves fixing the feet to a board and then taking repeated heavy falls.

He told photographers who asked at the beginning of the holiday



## Prince of Wales falls for snowboarding

whether he would try snowboarding that he was "far too old for that". However, Prince Harry, like any youngster taken to the Alps these days, wanted to try it and persuaded his father to have a go.

The 11-year-old prince even wore some of the snowboarder's traditional garb that marks them as the

alternative snow culture — a ski hat in the shape of a dinosaur. The benefit of the age difference was apparent after just 30 minutes, when Prince Harry was able to snowboard 400 yards and take the drag-lift back to the top of the run.

Prince Charles, who wore a one-piece ski suit that no self-respecting

snowboarder would be seen dead in, spent much time on his knees in the snow but managed to glide 100ft without falling.

A spokesman said: "It was Harry's idea to try snowboarding. He loved it and can't wait to do it again. The Prince of Wales enjoyed the experience but I'm not sure he'll do it

again." Until recently the frequently ragged snowboarders were banned at some ski resorts. However the sport has been accepted as an Olympic event and is growing so fast that some predict snowboarders will outnumber skiers within a few years.

The Prince also experimented with short "Big Foot" skis, which are more like snow skates, and which, according to the spokesman, he preferred to snowboarding.

## Shadow over Clinton tour

Hillary Clinton is publishing a book this week on how society can better serve children, but the big promotional tour her publishers have planned is likely to prove a debacle after the release of several incriminating documents about the White House travel office. It seems possible she will be subpoenaed to testify before congressional investigators. Page 9

## Housekeeper dies as mansion burns

A housekeeper died after being clubbed as her employer's mansion near Worth, West Sussex, burnt. The house belonged to the widow of the founder of Touche Ross accountants. Page 3

## Internet Times

The Internet edition of *The Times* is now available on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

## Tenor dies in fall on stage at the Met

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

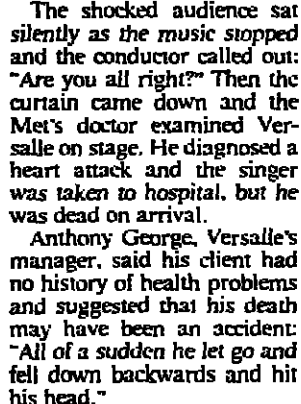
A TENOR singing at New York's Metropolitan Opera died on stage immediately after delivering the line: "Too bad you can only live so long."

Richard Versalle, 63, was playing the legal clerk Vitek alongside Jessye Norman in Friday's first-night performance of *The Makropulos Case*, Janacek's opera about the secret of eternal life.

In the opening scene, he climbed a ladder to file a legal brief in its drawer, but after delivering his last line, his voice faltered and he plunged 20 ft to the floor.

The shocked audience sat silently as the music stopped and the conductor called out: "Are you all right?" Then the curtain came down and the Met's doctor examined Versalle on stage. He diagnosed a heart attack and the singer was taken to hospital, but he was dead on arrival.

Anthony George Versalle's manager, said his client had no history of health problems and suggested that his death may have been an accident. "All of a sudden he let go and fell down backwards and hit his head."



Versalle: ladder plunge

## Millions win the lottery

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

TWO of the three winners to share the record £42 million National Lottery jackpot had failed by last night to claim their share of the prize-money.

Only one caller rang the Camelot claims hotline yesterday. The two other winners can make their claims at any of the 11 regional offices which open at 9am today.

But the winning numbers — 2, 3, 4, 13, 42, and 44; with 24 the bonus number — made millions happy. Besides the three winning tickets, another 53 lottery players picked five numbers plus the bonus, winning £104,747 each. Five numbers were chosen by 1,524 people, who got £2,276 each. Four numbers were picked by 100,140 who got £76.

The £10 prize for predicting three numbers was won by 2,282,389 people.

## Washington wakes up to a White House white-out

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE BRITISH may talk about the weather, but it is the Americans who really have it. Washington was brought to a standstill yesterday by its worst snowstorm since the monster that dumped 28in on the capital in January 1922. Even that formidable record looked likely to be smashed as the blinding white downfall

stretched into the evening with no sign of letting up. Forecasters called it a storm of "historic proportions" and "the snowstorm of all our lifetimes". It closed the capital's museums, monuments and federal offices just as they were reopening after a record 21-day shutdown caused by budgetary bickering. It forced President and Mrs Clinton to walk to church, but at least their church was open. Almost

all others in the area were closed, along with airports, shopping malls — and even McDonald's.

Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, cancelled his departure for Paris and the Middle East this morning, and the President scrapped budget talks with Republican congressional leaders. But the most telling measure of the storm's severity was that it prevented Phil Gramm, the

Texas senator desperate to be president, from travelling to New Hampshire to campaign. For Mr Gramm to be kept from voters is unprecedented.

On Saturday authorities were blasting out a bewildering array of snow, blizzard, storm and coastal-flood warnings, causing a lemming-like rush to supermarkets and a demand for snow shovels that far outstripped supply. Fleets of snowploughs and

salting lorries lined highways. The snow began about 9pm. By 10pm it was a foot deep. It took 20 minutes to dig out my car and the (humile drive to work took 30 slithering minutes along a deserted six-lane highway. Snowploughs had clearly fought and lost.

Last night the storm, which began in Georgia, was heading towards Philadelphia and New York. Several states had declared an emergency.



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## THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

### THE SCIENCE OF AGELESS AGEING

In part two of our series, how to keep your sex life young. PLUS: See how your players are performing in our £50,000 Interactive Team Football



### ESSENTIAL FASHION

Winter's best buy and how to wear it. PLUS: Ageless ageing: are low-fat diets the secret of long life?

THURSDAY

### FILMS OF THE WEEK

Is *Showgirls* so bad? Geoff Brown's review. PLUS: Ageless ageing: men, women and the menopause



### OPERA

What a BBC series found behind the scenes at the Royal Opera House. PLUS: The Valerje Grove interview, and the Education page



### THEATRE OFFER

Take a friend to the theatre for 30p. PLUS: The Magazine, Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide



EVERY DAY THIS WEEK YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE A FREE DAY AT A HEALTH CLUB

## Prime Minister puts on a brave face as trouble looms on all fronts

# Major fails to halt blitz on Portillo

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL PORTILLO was under attack from former ministers yesterday as John Major sought to defend him. David Mellor, the former Cabinet minister, said that the Defence Secretary had risked prompting more defections from the Conservative Party by his recent headline comments against pro-European Tories.

Mr Portillo was heavily criticised after saying that Emma Nicholson, the Tory defector to the Liberal Democrats, had a history of disloyalty and telling MPs supporting a federal Europe that they should leave the party. Mr Mellor accused Mr Portillo of opening up new Tory

divisions through his comments and warned him against making statements on general party matters.

Mr Mellor called on the Prime Minister to stop Mr Portillo making comments if he "can't be relied upon to say the right thing on wider party issues". He added that Mr Portillo should have declined to comment on Miss Nicholson's defection rather than launch a scathing attack on her loyalty. "It didn't need that," Mr Mellor said on GMTV's *Sunday* programme, adding that it "gave the impression that a whole lot of men were piling in to poor old Emma."

Mr Portillo, who has been criticised publicly and privately by senior

### FACTIONS

Tories for his recent public comments, was defended by Mr Major, who spoke of his "formidable" strengths. However, the Prime Minister was less supportive when asked about his views on Mr Portillo's fiercely patriotic speech to the Tory party conference last year, which also attracted widespread criticism.

Mr Major said: "Michael is immensely patriotic. But I don't think there is a politician in the land who perhaps in retrospect would not have phrased something differently." Senior Tory aides said that the Prime Minister was offering his support to a Cabinet minister, although some

Tories felt that the backing was lukewarm.

Last week Mr Major was forced to intervene in a dispute between Mr Portillo and a former Chief of Defence Staff over reports that Admiralty Arch in London was to be sold. The Prime Minister ordered officials to make clear that the landmark building was not for sale.

Mr Mellor widened his attack to senior MPs on the Right. He said that in the case of "one or two prominent right-wingers within the Conservative Party, it's almost as if they don't want the party to be a party of Government — it's almost as if they want the Conservative Party to be a sect."

Michael Mates, the former North-

ern Ireland minister, singled out Mr Portillo for widening the rift between the left and right in the party. He accused both wings of distracting attention from the successes of the Government. "Michael Portillo's violently Euro-phobic utterances are as unhelpful and damaging as Hugh Dykes's lunacy in voting against the Government in the fishing debate... to teach them a lesson."

Mr Mates and Mr Mellor said that the party would lose the next election unless it ended its infighting. Mr Mates said that if the factional conflicts did not end, we shall be consigned to opposition for a generation, and deservedly so.

William Rees-Mogg, page 16

## Unity call

Continued from page 1  
mortgages would go up, he said.

Mr Major was conciliatory towards the two Tory defectors, Miss Nicholson and Alan Howarth, although he regretted the "furtive" way in which they left. They were both nice people, had decent instincts and he liked them. "I always have, and I believe — because they have those instincts — over time they will regret what they have done and perhaps even more the way in which they have done it."

He also tried to head off further defections, amid reports that two more MPs were considering their positions, and to counter claims that the Tories were lurching to the right. His message throughout was that the Tories had room for all shades of opinion.

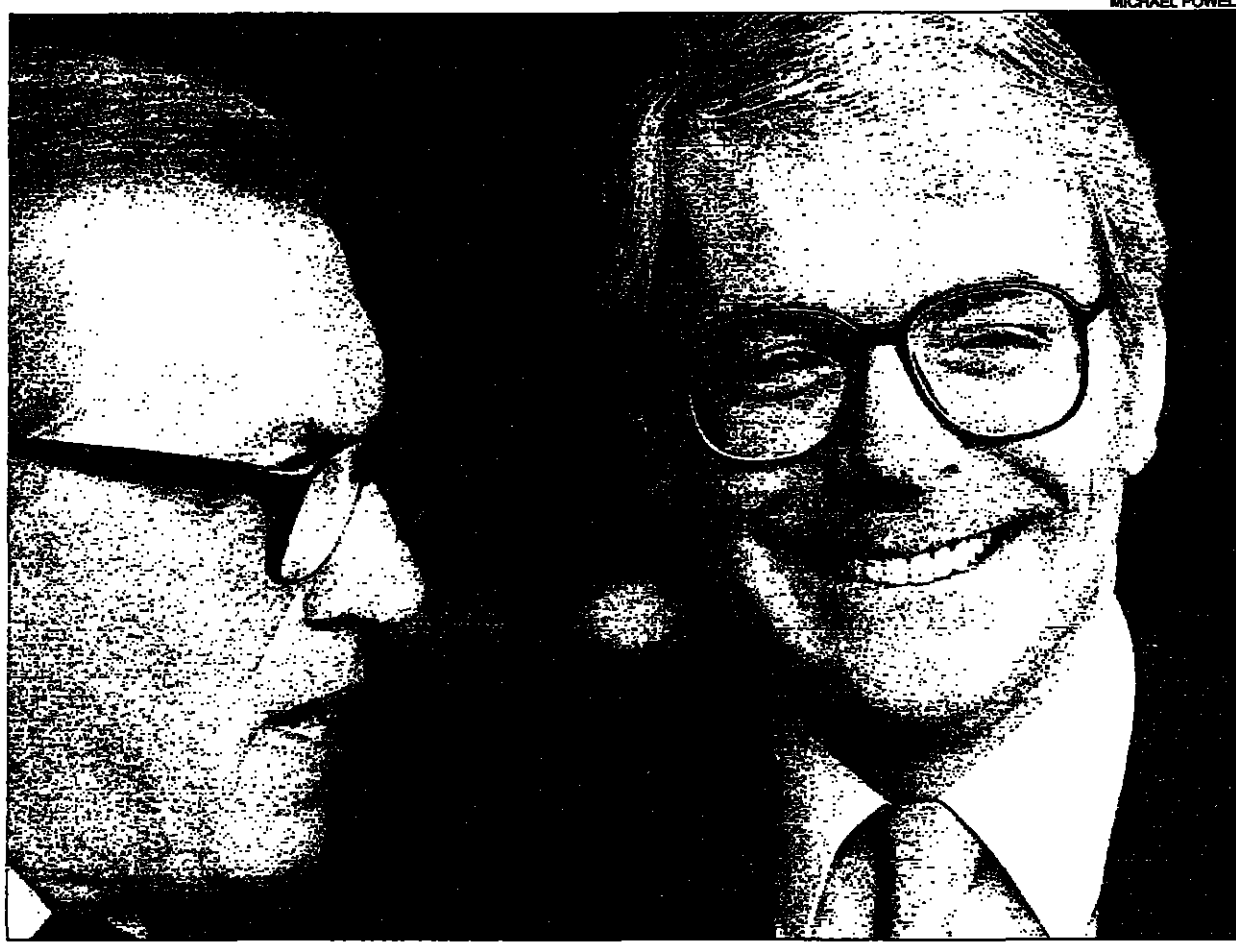
"It would be weaker if the Conservative Party did not have both these wings of opinion available for debate and discussion. I am determined we keep both these wings," he said. "We are a tolerant, pragmatic, broad church of a party. We cannot and we will not be captured by either wing of that party, but both wings of that party have a proper right to make their views known."

His balancing act continued when he backed Michael Portillo, who has been under attack for his aggressive comments since Miss Nicholson changed parties. He praised his "formidable" strengths, but suggested that his controversial speech to last year's party conference was ill-advised. "Michael is immensely patriotic. But I don't think there is a politician in the land who perhaps in retrospect would not have phrased something differently," he said.

In the interview, Mr Major also revived the possibility of the sale of the Royal Mail, but only as a subject for the Tory election manifesto.

He gave no ground over European policy, saying a referendum on a single currency remained a possibility and that the Government had reached no decision on publishing a White Paper setting out its detailed views.

"I believe in Europe," he said. "I think Europe is immensely in the interest of the British nation, but that emphatically does not mean I agree with every aspect of European policy."



The Prime Minister with Sir David Frost yesterday. Mr Major denied more Tory defections were imminent

## Tory MPs deny plans to jump ship

By ALICE THOMSON

TWO senior Tory MPs, Peter Thurnham and Andrew Rowe, made it clear last night that although they are deeply disaffected with their party they will not be jumping ship in the near future. John Major's majority looked as though it was nearing vanishing point this weekend when the two left-of-centre backbenchers said that they had almost reached the end of their tether with "the lurch to the Right".

Mr Thurnham, who is giving up his Bolton North East seat at the next election, threatened to stand as an independent Conservative against Tim Collins, the official Tory candidate in Westmorland and Lonsdale. The Liberal Democrats are also said to have approached him.

Mr Rowe, 60, MP for Mid-Kent, said he would "owe it to my constituents" to resign the whip if the party lurches further to the Right. He also

### REBELS

said Michael Portillo's anti-Brussels speech at the Tory party conference was "disgraceful".

But yesterday he denied he was toying with the idea of becoming an independent and said he would fight the new seat of Faversham and Mid-Kent as the official Tory candidate at the next General Election.

With a Tory majority of only three and two by-elections pending, the Tory hierarchy spent yesterday describing the two men as "valued members of the party" in an attempt to soothe them. In direct contrast to the heavy-handed treatment of Emma Nicholson, the Tory MP for Devon West, who defected ten days ago, ministers and whips said they were aware of the MPs' discontent and were listening to what they had to say.

But they pointed out that

there was nothing they could do about one of Mr Thurnham's biggest gripes. Having decided not to contest the marginal seat he has held for 12 years, Mr Thurnham recently went for the Westmorland seat, where he lives, but was not even given an interview. "We have nothing to do with selection and quite understand that he must feel slighted by the stance of the

local party," a Tory official said. According to friends Mr Thurnham was devastated that they did not put him on the shortlist and that combined with his anger at some of his rightwing colleagues' antics had made "deeply unhappy". He also has an adopted handicapped child and found the Tories' tough stance against the disabled Bill last year hard to stomach.

He abstained in the crucial fishing Bill just before Christmas and told the *Mail on Sunday*: "I have been pressed by a large number of local people to consider standing as an independent Conservative at the next election. I am thinking about it."

Mr Major bent over backwards in his interview on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* programme to accommodate all sides, particularly Mr Rowe and Mr Thurnham.

He also denied rumours of other possible defections saying: "They are just salacious stories."



Rowe: intends to fight new seat as a Tory

## Sinn Fein told to end spate of killings

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN MAJOR yesterday laid the blame for recent paramilitary murders and punishment beatings at the door of Sinn Fein and said they must stop the violence. The Prime Minister, challenged by republican leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness to put an end to the spate of "centrally directed" murders carried out by gangs believed to be linked to the IRA.

He made clear that he will not accept Sinn Fein's repeated refusal to condemn the brutalities and would not tolerate republicans blaming the Royal Ulster Constabulary for

### ULSTER

not carrying out its job properly.

He also implied that the killing of five people in Belfast and Co Armagh in recent weeks had cast a question mark over the fragile peace process and the work of the International Commission looking into decommissioning paramilitary weapons.

Mr Major told the BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* that it was extraordinary how the punishment beatings had stopped during the visit of President Clinton to Britain and Ireland last November. "That argues for some form of

central direction. I don't think that was coincidence. After he left, they started again," he said. "Those people who stopped it before — and I think Sinn Fein and the IRA are both sides of the same coin — could stop it again."

"I would say to Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness and the others, I believe you can stop these killings and these beatings and if you wish to be taken seriously as democratic politicians now and in the future then you must stop them now and for good."

Mr Major predicted that the killings would fall off as the time approached for the publication of the findings of the International Commission on

January 15. The Prime Minister made clear that the shootings are the clearest evidence needed that the guns have to be got rid of.

The three-man commission, headed by former US Senator George Mitchell, yesterday said that it was considering taking further submissions from the two governments, Sinn Fein and loyalist and unionist parties.

Mr Major was urged last night to give the commission another six weeks by the Ulster Unionists who have insisted that if talks take place without decommissioning they will not attend.

The recent killings have been claimed by a group

calling itself Direct Action Against Drugs, but security chiefs are convinced it is a cover name being used by the IRA for killing during its ceasefire.

The IRA is believed to have two tonnes of Semtex, about 1,200 semi-automatic rifles and as many as 20 surface-to-air missiles as well as large consignments of mortars and other rockets hidden on both sides of the Irish border.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, welcomed Mr Major's comments. He said that President Clinton's remark that "your day is over" had stung the IRA into the recent spate of killings.

## Saudi deportation backed

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister yesterday gave his full backing to Michael Howard's decision to deport Mohammed al-Masari, the Saudi dissident who claimed that his removal from Britain could lead to his assassination, and went further than the Home Secretary in denouncing the campaigner's attempts to bring down his country's Government.

Dr Masari's application for political asylum has been rejected and he has been told that he must leave Britain by January 14 and live in Dominica unless he appeals. World-wide controversy was sparked when Mr Howard said that

### DISSIDENT

the decision had been made to protect trading links with Saudi Arabia.

Mr Major avoided reference to Britain's trade links, instead concentrating on Dr Masari's personal activities. He said: "Mr Masari is an illegal immigrant who has used his hospitality in this country to wage a campaign to try to bring down the Saudi Arabian regime. If people come here as illegal immigrants but are accepted here because we have a long and honourable tradition of helping people seeking asylum, and seek to create unsettled relationships with our allies

then I don't believe we should tolerate him to one side Saudi Arabia is critical to the stability of the Gulf. That is very important, not just to this country. We have already had one Gulf war."

Dr Masari, 49, has waged a relentless campaign against Saudi Arabia since arriving from Yemen last year. He has accused the Saudi royal family of corruption and called for a peaceful transition to Islamic rule.

Dr Masari was warned yesterday that he is likely to lose his Saudi citizenship. Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi defence minister, said: "If a Saudi opposes his country and his religion, he will be denied citizenship."

## Rush to union 'a folly'

By OUR POLITICAL STAFF

JOHN MAJOR underlined his opposition to a hurried entry into a single currency by insisting yesterday that it would be "folly" to rush forward if Britain did not benefit from the change.

The Prime Minister said he needed to hear more persuasive arguments in favour of monetary union before he would commit Britain to a single currency and warned fellow European leaders that he was prepared to be isolated on the issue.

As pro-European Tories prepared to open a campaign in favour of a single currency today, Mr Major sent a clear message that he would not be

### CURRENCY

forced into an early decision that would be irreversible.

He took issue with last week's claims by Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, that up to nine European Union countries would be ready to join a single currency in 1999. Dismissing the prospect as "unlikely", Mr Major warned of the dangers of "premature" entry.

The Prime Minister steered a careful course between the pro-European and Eurosceptic wings of his party by saying that he wanted a full discussion of the impact of a single currency. He scotched

reports that he had dropped plans, demanded by Eurosceptics, to publish a White Paper setting out Britain's position on Europe. He said that a decision would be taken after settling Britain's negotiating position for the forthcoming intergovernmental conference on Europe.

The Prime Minister was bullish in his comments on European Union plans to extend majority voting to central areas of European policy such as foreign affairs and defence. "I think the concept of British foreign policy being determined by qualified majority voting in the European Union is laughable. There's no question of us accepting that," he said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Patients 'dying in kidney cash crisis'

At least 1,000 people a year are dying of kidney failure because there are insufficient resources to treat them, Professor Stewart Cameron, former president of the Renal Association and a member of the national review of renal services, said yesterday. The shortage of kidney dialysis facilities has reached crisis point in some areas and hospitals cannot meet the demand, he said.

The Manchester Royal Infirmary has reduced some patients from three to two sessions of dialysis a week because of the shortage of money. The unpublished review was commissioned by the Health Department.

## Pledge on mentally ill

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, pledged yesterday to work for better care for mentally ill people in the community after Friday's court cases in which two men suffering from psychiatric illness were convicted of killings. Mr Dorrell, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, said: "We need to ensure there are fewer failures."

## M&S denies claims

Marks & Spencer yesterday denied allegations that some of its clothing is made by exploited child labour in Morocco. The allegations are the subject of a Granada *World in Action* programme to be broadcast on ITV tonight. David Sieff, a Marks & Spencer director, said on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* programme that the claims were "absolutely abhorrent".

## Claws, giant of the sea

The biggest lobster caught in Britain for 65 years has been found by divers who were clearing rubbish from the seabed of the former naval base at Portland, Dorset, where lobster pots were barred. The 15lb creature, 3ft long and perhaps 50 years old, is being kept in a public aquarium at Weymouth until clearance work is finished. A 20lb Cornwall lobster caught in 1931 was eaten.

Touche w  
housekee  
beaten to

Views on sale



## Body found in burning mansion

## Touche widow's housekeeper is beaten to death

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE housekeeper for a wealthy elderly widow has been found clubbed to death as her employer's mock-Regency mansion burnt around her.

Marion Addy, 58, was found lying in a pool of blood at Holmbush House, a country residence of Elizabeth Touche, 90, whose late husband, George, was the son of the founder of the Touche Ross accountancy practice.

Mrs Addy, who also served as cook, had worked at the house for six years, living in the grounds with her husband, a part-time driving instructor.

Firemen were called to the house when smoke was seen billowing from the windows on Saturday morning. They found Mrs Addy lying in a downstairs room, critically injured after being battered about the head. The room alongside had apparently been set on fire as had another on the first floor. Both were part of the servants' quarters.

Mrs Addy was taken to Worthing General Hospital by ambulance but she never regained consciousness. She died soon after arrival. A post-mortem examination showed that Mrs Addy had died of head injuries.

The death is being treated as

murder and the fire as arson. Firemen from Storrington, Partridge Green, Steyning and Findon were summoned to help to extinguish the blaze.

Holmbush House was built in 1850 in the village of Ashington near Worthing, West Sussex. Known to villagers as "the house on the hill", it is surrounded by woodland and overlooked by the South Downs.

Mr Touche lived there for many years, staying on after the loss in 1968 of his first wife Ursula, who was accidentally killed on the A24 while driving the family car out of the grounds. He took the death of his first wife badly but was comforted by his second bride, Elizabeth, whom he married in 1969.

She sold her former home in Pulborough to Guy Harwood, the racehorse trainer, on her wedding. The couple were already elderly and had known each other for many years.

This incident at Holmbush House is very tragic," Sir Anthony Touche, 69, Mrs Touche's nephew, said.

"It is a lovely old house built in the Regency style. My uncle had lived there until he died last February. He was 92 years old and had married Aunt Elizabeth in 1969, a year after Ursula's tragic death.

She moved in with him at the house."

Mr Touche, a prominent accountant, had separated from the family owned company in 1970 when it became Touche Ross. With Sir Anthony, he set up an investment trust company called Touche Remnant Holdings. He retired from accountancy at the age of 70.

"Liza is an amazingly tough woman but this terrible tragedy is obviously going to be an ordeal," Martin Baldwin, a friend and former neighbour, said.

"The death of one of her staff in such circumstances is obviously going to be a blow. My wife Jeanne and I were good friends with the Touched for the ten years we lived close by."

"We protested against the local Ashington by-pass being built and we often shared a coffee and a chat. He was a smashing bloke who was very active even at an elderly age. This would have been very upsetting for him."

Mrs Baldwin said: "Mrs Touche was a very intelligent woman and when we lived near by was still very much on the ball."

Brian Norton, chairman of Ashington Parish Council, said: "The Touche family were lovely people and always gave a lot of time and support to village events."

"This is very bad news. Mr Touche used to audit the village hall accounts. He was a marvellous man."

Police arrested a woman at Otterbourne, Hampshire, and drove her to the main incident room in Horsham for questioning.

"A woman arrested after the fire and the death of Mrs Addy is still in custody at Horsham Police Station and is being questioned about the death," Detective Superintendent Paul Westwood, who is leading the investigation, said.

A 62-year-old woman: will appear before magistrates at Horsham today charged with murder.



The extended Finch family before setting off in June on a voyage that was to have ended at the millennium

## Sail of century ends a bit early

By BILL FROST

A BUILDER who embarked on a highly publicised round-the-world yacht voyage with his extended family in June was back home last night to explain why the adventure foundered 30,000 miles short of target and four years early.

Gordon Finch had announced his plan not to return home until the millennium in the hope that the economy would be "sorted out" by then. He exchanged his business and £250,000 home to finance a circumnavigation which, in the event, ended just before Christmas "at a marina somewhere in southern Spain".

Mr Finch, 45, from Stokesley, North Yorkshire, had seven aboard the £80,000 yacht Askania as he set sail for what was to have been a five-year voyage, taking in the Caribbean and South Pacific. He and his wife Jane had wanted a romantic cruise alone but their three sons, two of their girlfriends and a grandchild decided they too should share the adventure.



The Askania, which was sold in Spain at a loss

Last night Mr Finch, now back in the family home that failed to find a buyer during his absence on the high seas, spoke of the misfortunes that beset the voyage. "Basically there were lots of problems from the outset. We had to wait for spare parts and repairs in various places and fell behind schedule."

Family considerations seem to have played a large part.

Mr Finch said that the circumnavigation was aborted so the "boys could go home while their jobs remained open".

happy family." Perhaps stung by any implied criticism over the failure of the voyage, Mr Finch's son Karl, 23, was less forthcoming yesterday. "It's got nothing to do with anyone else," he said. His younger brother Jonathan, 18, said: "We stopped and sold the boat but we are not saying why. We left her behind in Spain and I came back a few weeks ago with a good suntan."

The mishaps began off the Welsh coast near Milford Haven after the Askania's autopilot and steering broke down, Gordon Finch said.

They then hit "absolutely foul" weather crossing the Channel and endured a rough passage across the Bay of Biscay. By then winter conditions began to sweep into southern Europe. After a conference the family decided the yacht should be sold. "We didn't get quite what we paid," Mr Finch said.

"With hindsight, it was probably too big a challenge to take on," Mr Finch said. "At least we had a go."

## Charities act to save 'living lawnmowers'

By ROBIN YOUNG

ANIMAL welfare charities say they are having to rescue distressed, abandoned, injured or starving Shetland ponies from owners who have answered advertisements saying: "Don't buy a lawnmower — buy a pony."

Peter Wakeham, manager of the West Sussex sanctuary of the charity Animal Line, has rescued two Shetland ponies, Hamish and Dougal, bought by families who saw the advertisements in local newspapers in Sussex. A neighbouring welfare worker has rescued a third pony, Elfin, from a garden in Shropshire.

Mr Wakeham said yesterday: "Both Hamish and Dougal were being kept in gardens about 20ft by 20ft. One garden had a lawn only about the size of a kitchen, but the buyer had been told that a pony would be the best thing to keep the grass down. A back garden is no place for a horse, however small. It is outrageous. They need a wide open field to graze, and shelter. Gardens are full of all sorts of

things such as rhododendrons which would be poisonous to them."

Mr Wakeham said that Dougal's owners had told him they fed the pony only 1½ lbs of apples a day as supplement to the grass in the garden. "It is a wonder that he is still alive," Mr Wakeham said. "We have now learnt that the advertisement ran in Sussex papers for several weeks, and we have investigators trying to trace who was selling the ponies."

The third pony, Elfin, now being looked after by Pauline Grant at the Sussex Horse Rescue Sanctuary, was rescued from a garden in Shropshire after falling in a ditch and injuring itself while attempting to escape. Mrs Grant said yesterday: "They are herd animals and confined like that they become unhappy, lonely and miserable."

Tikki Adorian, the chairwoman of the British Miniature Horse Society, has intervened to prevent similar advertisements appearing in Suffolk and Norfolk "on welfare grounds".

## Vandals kill birds at zoo loved by children

By BILL FROST

SECURITY guards were patrolling an inner-city zoo last night after intruders strangled and stamped on dozens of birds. Finches, budgerigars, canaries, cockatiels and a buzzard were slaughtered in their aviaries at Plushet Park Zoo in East Ham, east London, late on Saturday.

John Bowe, an RSPCA inspector called to the scene, said yesterday that it was the worst case of mass animal cruelty he had seen. "This was obviously a case of mindless violence against animals on a major scale," he said.

Police were called at 11.30pm on Saturday night by a member of the public who reported seeing two intruders in the zoo grounds. Officers arrived to find an air pistol lying on the ground and 36 dead birds, worth £1,000, scattered over the floor of the aviary after apparently being strangled and crushed.

After searching the grounds police called in a helicopter with heat-seeking equipment to locate the intruders. The zoo

remained closed to visitors yesterday.

The zoo is also home to a animals including goats, geese, chickens and horses, which children are allowed to stroke. There is also a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig, ponies and ducks.

Councillor Lyn Brown, who chairs Newham Council's Leisure Services Committee, said officials and staff were devastated by what had happened. "Plushet Zoo is very highly valued, particularly by children. This news will be especially distressing for them," she said.

Local people had recently campaigned successfully to save the zoo from closure due to council cuts. "While we all want to keep the zoo open, we also must have maximum concern for the safety and welfare of the animals and birds in our care," Mrs Brown said.

Two men aged 17 and 19 were yesterday questioned at Forest Gate police station by detectives and RSPCA officials investigating the incident.

## Views on sale as matching pair

By CAROL MIDDLEY

JOHN O'GROATS and Land's End, mainland Britain's most remote tourist attractions, go on sale to the highest bidder for the first time today. The most northerly and westerly ends of a thousand sponsored walks have a collective price tag of about £5.5 million.

Gulf Resources Pacific Limited (GRP), the New Zealand-based owner, has decided to put them on the market to concentrate on Pacific business ventures. The chance to acquire Britain's most far-flung landmarks is expected to attract buyers at home and from America, South Africa and the Far East.

Leisure, the chartered surveyors who are handling the sale, said there may be public pressure to find a British buyer. Nigel



Land's End: £5.5million price with John O'Groats

Talbot-Ponsonby, the chairman, said: "When Land's End was first sold to a private company in 1981, there was some consternation that Arabs had purchased it with millions of barrels of oil and it was going to be towed away and planted somewhere."

The landmark was then

bought by the millionaire Peter de Savary in 1986, who sold it to GRP four years ago. Mr Talbot-Ponsonby said that good management meant there had been no problems.

He added: "Land's End and John O'Groats are together a unique opportunity for a UK or international

leisure or property company." Land's End, 100 acres steeped in Cornish folklore and legend, now attracts about half a million visitors a year. Turnover for 1995 was said to be £3.5 million, derived mainly from hotels, restaurants and gift shops.

John O'Groats, about 12 miles from the mainland's most northerly point, Dunnet Head, is 874 miles by road from Land's End and attracts 250,000 visitors.

Its income is mainly from the John O'Groats House Hotel, a restaurant and tourist shop. Planning permission for extension of the site has been granted and it is eligible for a £700,000 grant from the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Company.

Last night Mr de Savary, who formerly owned both sites, said he was considering buying them again.

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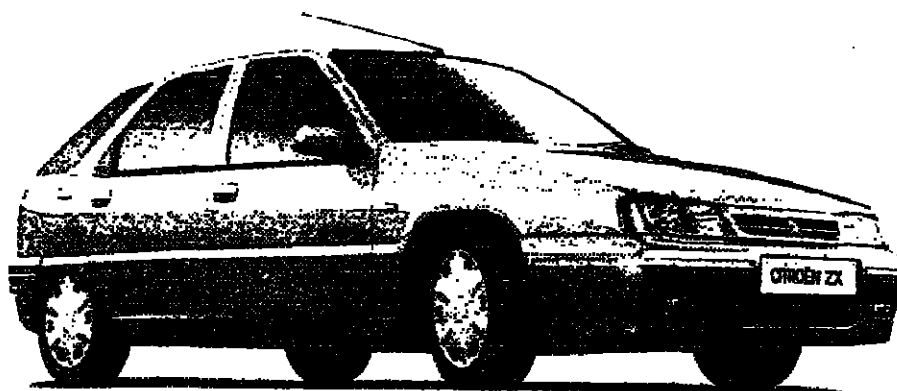
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## Costa deal emerges as 'homeless' priest is found to rent out his own house

## Charity cash hunt leads to Spanish villas fiasco

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A CHARITY hospital demanding £42,000 back from its former top officers, a priest and a Labour Party agent, is to examine a failed Spanish building project in which they invested.

A training agency run by the Rev Graham Pattison, former Master of Sherburn Hospital, Durham, and Ron Morrissey, the hospital's former chairman, sank £700,000 into Costa del Sol villas that were never completed.

Mr Pattison, who was sacked for misconduct, faces eviction from his Grade II listed rent-free home in the hospital grounds. He refuses to go, claiming that he has nowhere to live. The Times has learnt that he and his wife Valerie own a £70,000 home ten minutes' drive away.

Mr Pattison, 56, and Mr Morrissey, 59, were criticised by the Charity Commission last week for weaving a "web of conflicts of interest, patronage and nepotism" at the hospital. Although a report found nothing illegal or dishonest had taken place, it accused them of manipulating the 800-year-old charity for their own ends. They were provided with £19,000 Alfa Romeo 164 Lusso cars and their families benefited from pension schemes.

The Spanish investigation includes £42,000 in hospital grants paid during 1986-88.

The Costa del Sol development Panorámica de Mijas is little more than a derelict plot of hill-top land.

In the 1980s Mr Morrissey and Mr Pattison also ran the youth training agency Interchurch. Later renamed Skill Training Ltd, it attracted charity and government grants to run training schemes for the unemployed of Durham. By the late Eighties a change in government rules allowed such agencies to retain their profits. Skill Training put its money into speculative property development, ostensibly to raise huge sums for future training projects.

Mr Morrissey, a Durham city councillor, set up a separate, Spanish-registered company, Skilltrain España, with himself as a 98 per cent shareholder. The British firm sent £300,000 to buy land for villas which it hoped to sell for about £100,000 each.

But the property market collapsed and with it the project, amid squabbles over land rights and payment to contractors. Documents filed at Companies House show Skill Training lost £699,608 in the Panorámica project over the past six years.

Mr Pattison and Mr Morrissey are no longer involved with Skill Training. The hospital is examining the accounts to see if it can get back three grants totalling



Three empty villas on the Costa del Sol built with cash from the British agency Skill Training. Originally 17 homes were planned

£42,000 donated to Interchurch but paid into an account controlled by the two men.

Last night Mr Morrissey said: "I am not guilty of any wrongdoing. I deny there was any nepotism. This is a political attack. They are putting the worst possible interpretations on things that were perfectly innocent."

"Explanations have been given to the Charity Commission and were ignored. Two police investigations have cleared us and the commissioners have said there was no dishonesty."

Skill Training's Spanish venture was simply a speculative investment that failed to pay off, he said. "The money

was nothing to do with Sherburn Hospital." Mr Pattison also denies wrongdoing. He blames Mr Morrissey and Kathleen Burke, a fellow director, and claims to have learnt of the villas project only weeks after it happened.

Mr Pattison said: "There were errors made in 1989 in relation to the initial £300,000 which went out to Spain as a so-called investment."

"I thought it was a damnable foolish thing to do. My problem is that I have been guilty of laissez faire in trusting that two people who ran Skill Training Ltd, who were respectively chairman and vice-chairman of the governing body here, were making a good job of it."

## 'I don't know what it is they are bleating about'

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE Rev Graham Pattison yesterday admitted "with hindsight" to having made errors but challenged critics to find any evidence of wrongdoing in his work for Sherburn Hospital.

In a three-hour interview with The Times he dismissed Charity Commission accusations of nepotism and manipulating hospital affairs for his own ends.

"I really don't know what it is people are bleating about," he said. "Hell, I am underpaid for what I have done."

"I think it is ludicrous. I don't know why I have worked for £12,000 and a house that is not my own... Anything I am not legitimately entitled to I will be perfectly happy to hand over."

These are the main criticisms and his responses: 1. Hospital charity grants of £42,000 to the training agency run by Mr Pattison and Ron Morrissey, the agent for the City of Durham's Labour MP, were paid into a private account under their exclusive control. Between £20,000 and £42,000 remains unaccounted for, according to the Charity Commission report.

Mr Pattison admits he cannot account for at least £12,000 of the money because invoices were not kept. "I don't feel culpable in the sense of being guilty but I feel less than proud that I cannot remember what the exact items of equipment were that we bought back in 1986."

2. The purchase of two £19,000 3-litre Alfa Romeo cars in 1989. Mr Pattison's was

bought from hospital funds and Mr Morrissey's by the Interchurch training agency. "I personally have no reason to feel any guilt whatsoever about the purchase of that car. I was not a governor so I never voted for the purchase," he said.

The cost did not disturb him. "If that had taken money out of the residents' mouths and accommodation and care it ought to be wholly disapproved of..." But the cars were bought out of surpluses that the charity was able to make from shareholdings.

He added: "The Archdeacon of Durham believes that a priest ought not to be seen dead at the wheel of a vehicle that costs £19,000. I think that is the Archdeacon's problem."

3. His wife Valerie's appointment as the hospital's head of care at a salary of between £25,000 and £35,000, and her £100,000 executive pension.

"I just do not know how my wife's appointment is regarded as nepotistic. The master does not vote on appointments... She was the only candidate of six who happened to be an SRN and was the best qualified. The pension is not exceptional. With hindsight... I wish she had not been granted it. But at the time I was persuaded it was not excessive."

4. A hospital governors' investigation claims there are no records of how £175,000 in charity grants to the rehabilitation project Compass was spent. Mr Morrissey's wife Doris was also taken on as a project worker while he was chairman of governors awarding the grants.

"The impression is given that this money went into somebody's pocket. That is quite mischievous," Mr Pattison said. "I have nothing to be ashamed of."

He added: "Ron Morrissey had nothing to do with his wife's appointment. She got the job because she was the best qualified candidate."

5. A Golf GTI bought for the use of Mr Morrissey's wife Doris while at Compass. On reflection, Mr Pattison admits that was inadvisable.

Pattison: denial of any wrongdoing

## The house Pattison tried to hide

THIS is the house that the Master of Christ's Hospital in Sherburn tried to keep hidden (Stephen Farrell writes). The £70,000 three-bedroom detached home overlooks the picturesque former mining village of Meadowfield in Co Durham.

The Rev Graham Pattison has repeatedly claimed he had nowhere to go if evicted from his 150-year-old Grade II listed residence in the hospital grounds. But Land Registry documents show the joint proprietors of a house in Meadowfield since June 1, 1989, to be Mr Pattison and his wife Valerie.

In November, hospital governors gave the cleric eight weeks' notice to quit the rent-free Master's House when the Bishop of Durham turned down his appeal against dismissal for misconduct. The deadline expired on Friday, and governors will meet tomorrow to decide on legal action.

Mr Pattison told The Times



The £70,000 three-bedroom home in Meadowfield

last Friday: "At the moment we have no house of our own to go to. As a last resort we have one or two kind friends who would give us a roof over our heads and put our furniture into storage in this desperate situation."

Asked if he owned any property elsewhere, he said: "If we were able to go and live

in a house somewhere nice we would go and live in it. It would be lovely. But we do not want to cash in our savings at an early stage before retirement in order to buy a property. I wish I had got into the housing market long ago, before the cost of getting into it now."

Confronted by the Land

Registry evidence yesterday he at first said: "I don't know, I'm unable to go to any house." Then he insisted he did not own it.

"This is my wife's house. I have never contributed a penny towards that house. I had to relinquish anything to do with the house when I became unemployed."

He emphasised there were reasons why it was "absolutely impossible" his wife could live there, but refused to say what they were. "I cannot just go and live in that house. It is not my prerogative."

The house is occupied by a tenant. The Durham estate agents J. W. Wood confirmed that it was let for six months in December, after the bishop turned down Mr Pattison's appeal, for £450 a month. Neighbours say it has been home to a succession of tenants during the past year.

Mr Pattison denied receiving £450 a month rent. "My wife does not derive that income. She does derive a much smaller income."

## Delusion fuels stalkers' absurd and hopeless devotions

A FEW years ago one of my colleagues was pursued by a stalker. She never knew who he was, never saw him and never spoke to him but for about 18 months messages, from time to time daily, were left for her.

The stalker praised her appearance, was the first to comment on any new hairstyle or clothes, he assessed her choice of restaurant and theatre, evaluated her work and lavished presents on her. Her house was filled with flowers but she was in a quandary about what to do with the chocolates; they looked delicious but it was impossible to be certain that his unrequited

adoration had not been soured by frustration and that they had not been injected with some noxious substance. One day a message accompanying an even larger bunch of flowers than usual said that his love was undying but that she would not be hearing from him again; and she did not.

Psychiatrists call the compulsion erotomania, which results in somebody becoming absurdly and obsessively infatuated by another person whom they either barely know, or more often do not know at all but have seen only on television or read about. The basic delusion is that the pursuer is either loved

intensely by his or her quarry or would be if they only knew each other. As a result the victim is bombarded by telephone calls, letters and presents and no chance is ever lost of a sighting.

The public figures that we know have been stalked over recent years include, as well as the Princess Royal, Monica Seles, Steffi Graf,

Lady Helen Turner and Jodie Foster, but there are hundreds of other victims most of whom share one characteristic. If they are not national sporting heroes, or figures from the media or royal family, they are richer, more powerful and come from a higher social background than the pursuer.

An odd feature of the condition is

that in the event of the people involved meeting, and even establishing some sort of relationship, no great physical passion is usually displayed by the stalkers. It seems that their love is more spiritual than sexual; they merely want the opportunity to display a dog-like, but possessive, devotion.

Although stalking can be a symptom of neurotic as well as psychotic behaviour, there is always the possibility that it can become the basis of a delusional sexual jealousy and part of a paranoid psychotic disorder. Gross sexual jealousy is always taken seriously by psychiatrists. Pres-

ident Reagan, for instance, was nearly murdered because of a man's delusional love for Jodie Foster. It is not unusual to hear patients who have excessive jealousy saying: "If I can't have her, (or him) nobody will."

The family of the man thought to be following the Princess has said that apart from his fixation he is normal, unaggressive and kind. Psychiatrists, however, were wise to warn the police and to take such delusional symptoms seriously.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD



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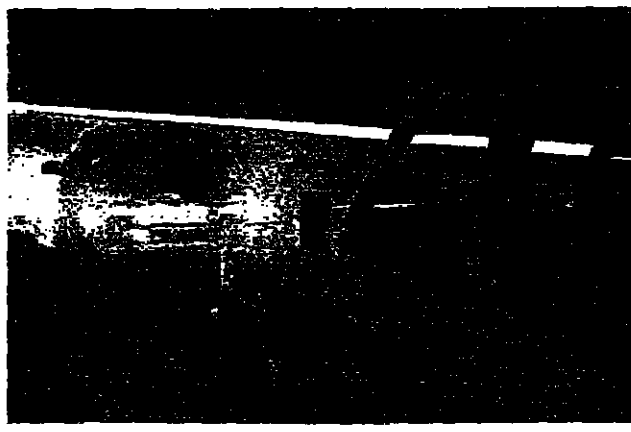
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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Limit on small claims is increased

The limit on the size of disputes that can be heard by small claims courts is increased from £1,000 to £3,000 from today. The decision by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, follows proposals by Lord Woolf that much greater use should be made of the small claims court as part of his overhaul of civil justice.

Some 87,000 disputes a year are handled in the small claims courts, which could triple with the lifting of the limit. However, research has found the courts do not enjoy the confidence of many members of the public and are used mainly by the middle classes to sue other middle-class individuals.

## Chinook crash inquiry begins

A fatal accident inquiry opens today at Paisley, Strathclyde, into the 29 deaths in an RAF Chinook helicopter crash at the Mull of Kintyre in June 1994. The victims included 10 members of the RUC Special Branch, nine Army intelligence officers and six M15 officers who were on their way from Ulster to a security conference. The hearing is expected to last four weeks. An official MoD inquiry put the blame on pilot error.

## Dental doubts

Most MPs believe dental treatment in the next century will be offered on the NHS only to children and those on low incomes, according to a survey on behalf of the British Dental Association. Dentists have called on the Government to increase funding to ensure NHS treatment for all.

## Prisoners sought

Irish police are searching for 30 prisoners who failed to return from Christmas parole. The group includes John McCallister, 44, who is serving seven years for the manslaughter of a German tourist. He was among 309 prisoners released over Christmas by the Irish Justice Department.

## Asbestos charge

Aston Villa Football Club will appear before Birmingham magistrates on Friday for alleged asbestos contamination at its Villa Park stadium. The Health and Safety Executive is to prosecute the club and a firm of contractors, claiming that asbestos was found during renovations.

## Service as usual

Worshippers carried on with their service at St Andrew's Church in Rochford, Essex, after a chorister and a churchwarden chased three burglars out of the vestry during the service. One made his escape down the nave. Afterwards, credit cards and £150 were found to be missing.

## £10m drug haul

Four men were being questioned yesterday over the seizure of cannabis resin worth more than £10 million at an industrial unit in Acocks Green, Birmingham. The 1,070kg haul was found after an investigation involving 50 officers from the West Midlands drugs squad.

## Time flows by

A huge digital clock is being installed a foot under the River Liffey in Dublin as part of the city's countdown to the end of the millennium. Weighing several tons and with digits the size of a door, the neon display will be visible through the water close to O'Connell Bridge.

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Queen to attend St Paul's service

# Gulf War plaque honours sailor stabbed in brawl

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A MEMORIAL to be placed in St Paul's Cathedral listing British service personnel killed in the Gulf War will be headed by a sailor stabbed by another crew member after a drunken brawl.

Forty-seven names appear on the memorial, made from Westmoreland slate and Portland stone, which will be placed next to Nelson's tomb in the crypt. It will be dedicated next month during a service attended by the Queen to mark the fifth anniversary of the war.

Able Seaman Maurice Foy, a 38-year-old merchant sailor, was found dead on board the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel *Sir Galahad* in February 1991 during the height of the war. He had been stabbed by Signalman Brian Craggs, also a merchant sailor, who was later found guilty of manslaughter and jailed for seven years.

The fatal incident on board the vessel occurred after a fight in the mess bar. Yesterday a Defence Ministry spokeswoman said: "Maurice Foy was presumably included because he died in the service of his country during the conflict."

The memorial was produced by Martin Jennings, a sculptor from Oxford who took three months to complete the work. He said yesterday that the 47 names had been

given to him by the MoD. They originally appeared on a memorial tablet in an Anglican church in Ahmadi, about 15 miles from Kuwait City. Both memorials were paid for by the British Memorial Fund Kuwait, a group of mainly expatriates dedicated to helping the families of those killed in the war.

Mrs Jennings said: "The MoD colonel I dealt with told me to include the same 47 names on the memorial for St Paul's Cathedral." Colleen Williams, who founded the organisation, said that she was given the names by the MoD.

The memorial tablet at St Paul's Church in Ahmadi was erected in November 1992 and the organisation paid for relatives of the dead to attend the service.

Mrs Williams declined to comment on the inclusion of Able Seaman Foy, although she said: "Some of the names are those killed while on active service and others who died actually in the campaign. We were governed by what the MoD said."

The heading on the 8ft-wide, wall-mounted tablet reads: "In honour of those British sailors, soldiers and airmen who gave their lives for the liberation of Kuwait during the Gulf War."

The names consist of two from the Royal Fleet Auxilia-

ry, 37 from the Army and eight from the RAF. *Sir Galahad*, a support vessel, was on duty in the Gulf during the war.

Catherine Foy O'Byrne, 40, the dead sailor's elder sister, said: "We are delighted. We wondered whether he would be included. It was a pretty tragic case and very difficult to deal with."

"We want to do this particularly for Maurice's two children and to pay tribute to him. We were a close family. We were there for the trial, which was very harrowing."

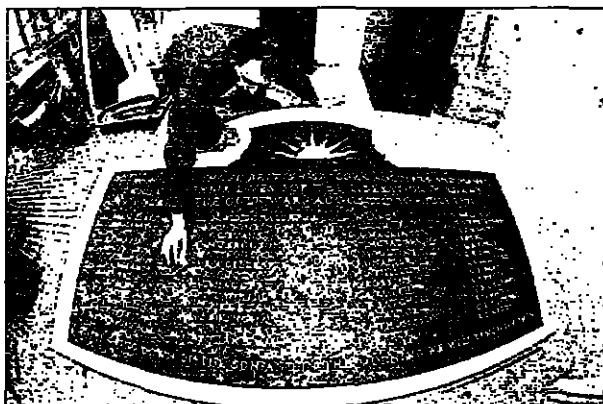
Many of Able Seaman Foy's family, including his mother Agnes, 71, will travel from Dublin to attend the dedication service to be led in the cathedral by the Archbishop of Canterbury on February 28.

They will join the late sailor's wife Wendy and their daughters, aged fourteen and nine years, who live in Cornwall. Michael Foy, 36, his brother, said: "We will go over in February as a tribute to our brother. He was a hero in our eyes."

"He was the eldest brother among 11 children. The visit is our farewell to him. They are recognising his death but really it doesn't help us much. It is very hard for us, given the circumstances of Maurice's death. This means a good deal to my mother."

On the night of the killing, Craggs from Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, and Able Seaman Foy, from Dublin, had been drinking together. A row broke out between them and Craggs had to be restrained and ordered to his cabin after punching and kicking his shipmate.

Able Seaman Foy was seen kicking at Craggs's cabin door but was told to go to bed. Later Craggs was found standing over Able Seaman Foy's body with a knife in his hand. At his trial at Oxford Crown Court, Craggs claimed Able Seaman Foy had woken him by banging on his cabin door and shouting: "I'm going to kill you."



Able Seaman Foy's name heads the first column

## Dual Monty tribute planned

By A STAFF REPORTER

FIELD MARSHAL Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, commander of the Allied land forces on D-Day, is to be honoured in bronze on both sides of the Channel. Identical statues are planned for Portsmouth and a French village in Normandy that was liberated on D-Day.

Monty was commander of the Portsmouth garrison before the Second World War. The second two-metre high statue will be at the French

village, which changed its name to Colleville-Montgomery after its liberation by British troops.

The £15,000 statue destined for Colleville-Montgomery was commissioned by the Normandy Veterans' Association outside the sculptor Vivien Mallock, who has a studio near Andover, Hampshire. The village is providing the plinth, landscaping and maintenance for the statue, which is to be unveiled on

June 6, the 52nd anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Portsmouth council hopes to fund a cast of the statue and another of a Normandy campaign soldier from a £40,000 public appeal. Both Portsmouth statues would be sited outside the D-Day Museum in Southsea.

Mrs Mallock's statue of Monty will show the field marshal in his military uniform but wearing over it his favourite flying jacket.

PROTESTERS camped along the route of the proposed Newbury bypass were finalising their battle plans yesterday as the Highways Agency prepared to go to the High Court this week to evict them from a network of treehouses and tunnels.

The fight for nine miles of countryside, including part of an English Civil War battlefield, promises to be the most bitter. Berkshire has seen since Roundheads and Cavaliers clashed twice in the 17th century.

This time the weapons of the growing band of green campaigners will be mobile telephones, pagers, CB radios and the Internet. When the first bulldozer moves in, the campaigners — who call themselves the Third Battle of Newbury Group — claim they will mobilise up to 1,000 sympathisers.

Last week protesters won a two-week delay when the first eviction orders were heard at the High Court. The next are due on Thursday but if the protesters' spoiling tactics are again successful another factor will come into play. Each delay means the nesting season, which could halt clearance work for several weeks.

In the nine camps, which include Tree Pixie Village and Granny Ash, the protesters have posted 24-hour look outs. Their colleagues wear climbing harnesses and ropes and when the first rumble of machinery is heard, scores will take to the trees. Their homes, stocked with

several weeks' supply of food and water, are perched precariously 30-40ft above the ground and linked by rope walkways. In all, there are about 60 treehouses.

At one camp on Snelmore Common, a network of tunnels is said to extend more than 150ft into the clay. The tunnels, about 3ft high and shored with scrap wood, can also house protesters for several weeks.

"We are learning new things all the time," said one of the camp dwellers who calls himself Hum the Hawk. "It will be difficult for them to get us out of the tunnels and they also make the ground unstable and means they can't move heavy machinery over the top."

Campaigners have been shown how to padlock themselves to machinery and, at some of the camps, concrete blocks have been set in oil barrels and buried in the ground. When the time comes hands can be thrust into small holes in the concrete and chained. They can be removed only if the entire "lock-on point" is dug free.

Hum, from Newcastle upon Tyne, is a veteran of three protests. "Once the bailiffs come in and they start cutting down trees I think it is inevitable they will move us out eventually. It is a case of holding out for as long as possible to heighten awareness about what is being done here and hitting the Government where it hurts, in the pocket."

The 27-year-old has another



"Dave" in one of the tunnels that could be a bolthole

motive for prolonging the struggle against the new dual-carriageway. Like many of the campaigners, he has nowhere else to live.

The protesters, who claim the £67 million A34 link will destroy some of the most beautiful countryside in southern England, claim there is no hierarchy within their group. But the protest bears all the hallmarks of a military operation.

An elaborate "phone tree" will alert hundreds of supporters from all over the country when clearance work

starts. At an office in Newbury, funded by Friends of the Earth and next door to the district council headquarters, computers donated by supporters, photocopiers and fax machines are used in the propaganda war.

Supporters of the bypass accuse the activists of using the Internet to send out false information about the effects of the road.

The first two battles of Newbury were decided by the use of pikes and staffs. In the third, it is new technology that will play a key role.

## Few allies in town besieged by the car

IN THE market town of Newbury, population 28,000, shoppers were apparently united in their support for the bypass and distaste for the protesters. "Get on with it as soon as possible," Victor Gregory, 70, said. "And if they don't come down from the trees, cut them down with them. You can sometimes get a six-mile queue coming into town and you have to build roads somewhere."

Opponents claim that a bypass will provide only a temporary fix, but devastate the environment. They say better public transport and traffic management schemes are the answer. But supporters, including David Rendell, the town's Liberal Democrat MP, and the district council, claim that 50,000 vehicles a day strangle the town. More than half is through-traffic, 19 per cent is lorries, and pollution in the town centre is three times higher than in other areas.

"Trade is down by 15 per cent in the last year," Peter Gilmour, information officer for Newbury District Council, said. "There can be no argument that there is a desperate need for the bypass."

Yvonne Northcott, 51, a school secretary, said: "I am all for it, it is absolutely dreadful trying to get out of town and it is getting worse. I think these people are lucky to have so much time to spend up trees. They think the countryside is so beautiful but they don't seem to care about the pollution in the town caused by the traffic."

## Foreigners win fight for hotel beds

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

RECORD numbers of foreign tourists are filling hotels in the most popular parts of Britain and pushing prices beyond the reach of most domestic holidaymakers.

In London, foreign visitors now fill about 70 per cent of all available hotel beds while hotels in the South, South East, Yorkshire, Cumbria, East Anglia and East Midlands claim that more than 10 per cent of their rooms are taken by foreign guests.

Only in the North West, where only 2 per cent of rooms are taken by guests from overseas, and Northumbria, where the figure is 6 per cent, are more than 90 per cent of available rooms used

by tourists. In the first ten months of last year there were more than 20 million foreign visitors, a rise of 11 per cent over the same period in 1994. "Demand is now outstripping supply," Richard Tobias, chief executive of the British Incoming Tour Operators Association, said. "That naturally leads to a hardening of prices."

"We desperately need thousands more hotel rooms now but the first to have been given the go ahead will not be ready until 1997. The problem is that foreign package tourists follow a well-worn trail around the country. We are trying to persuade them to visit parts other than London, the South East and other popular areas."

Russians are now being wooed to Blackpool, the Japanese to Yorkshire

and the French are flocking to supermarkets throughout the South to take advantage of the weak pound. The number of Americans visiting Britain is expected to rise by 7 per cent this year with a particularly strong growth in the number of people aged between 55 and 64. Foreign tour operators have already booked hotel rooms up to 18 months in advance, ensuring that 1997 should be another successful year for the British industry.

"We now know that the available hotels will be full," Mr Tobias said. "We need at least another 10,000 beds in London alone just to meet the demand and have 1,000 gradually coming on stream. We hope there will be a further 2,000 in 1997 and that the rest will be built before the end of the century."

## Long, hot summer spoilt by litter

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

LITTER levels on Britain's beaches have risen by 60 per cent over the past 12 months, according to a study published today.

Coastal litter is feared to be adding to the risks suffered by wildlife. A million birds and 100,000 mammals such as dolphins, whales and sea turtles die worldwide each year after becoming entangled in rubbish or eating plastics, according to the International Conference on Marine Debris.

The increase in Britain's coastal litter identified in the annual Beachwatch survey was blamed on thoughtless tourists who flocked to beaches during the long, hot summer of 1995, and the

continuing problems of ships and water companies that use the oceans as rubbish dumps.

Russell Twiss, a spokesman for the survey, which is carried out by the Marine Conservation Society and Reader's Digest, said: "Last year's sunshine summer brought more people than ever to our beautiful coastline, proving how important our bathing beaches are to Britain."

"Unfortunately they brought more litter and left more of it behind."

Rubbish generated by visitors, including drinks cans, sweet bags, crisp packets and plastic cups, accounted for 18.5 per cent of the total.

More than 305,000 items were found on 196 stretches of coastline around Britain and Northern Ireland. Waste

from shipping came a close second, accounting for 18.05 per cent of rubbish. Nearly 26,000 pieces of plastic rope and more than 3,000 pieces of fishing nets were found.

The third most prevalent items, 12.09 per cent, were sewage-related, and these included more than 17,000 cotton bud sticks.

The dirtiest: 1 Jack Scout Cove, Silverdale, Lancs (186.07 items per metre); 2 Western Shore, Sunderland Point, Lancs (83.20); 3 Skinningrove Beach, Saltburn, Cleveland (81.14); 4 Port Llandudno, North Queensferry, Fife (47.18); 5 East Sands, North Queensferry, Fife (47.18); 6 Freshwick Bay, Isle of Man (37.47).

The cleanest: 1 La Port aux Moines, Castel, Guernsey (0.01); 2 Farnham, St Peter Port, Guernsey (0.03); 3 Celyn Siden Beach, Llanelli, Dyfed (0.04); 4 Abbotsham to Greenall, near Bideford, Devon (0.09); 5 Portlaoine, St Martin's, Guernsey (0.11); 6 Ryde Sands, Ryde, Isle of Wight (0.12).

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THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 8 1996

# Italy shrugs off British fear of federalist plan

SUSANNA AGNELLI, the Italian Foreign Minister, has outlined a federalist programme for the European Union which is likely to ring alarm bells in Britain. It includes a common foreign policy, extended majority voting and increased powers for the European Parliament.

Italy took over the EU presidency from Spain this month and Signora Agnelli is embarking on a tour of European capitals this week before addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg. She acknowledged in an interview that her enthusiasm for European integration was in contrast to the attitude of her predecessor, Antonio Martino, who was "rather British in his approach". But she hoped for an agreement with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, on a proposal for ad hoc mediators on foreign policy rather than a "foreign minister for Europe".

Signora Agnelli said: "I am especially interested in having a unified foreign policy. The British do not like this idea, because they are afraid it might mean one particular person representing the whole



**Richard Owen interviews Italy's Foreign Minister and hears why majority voting is inevitable for Europe**

of Europe. But that is not my idea at all." Signora Agnelli said America must not be allowed to dominate conflict resolution, and she proposed ad hoc mediators from Europe on conflicts such as Cyprus, where a senior Italian official is holding exploratory talks.

Signora Agnelli, 73, became Foreign Minister a year ago when Lamberto Dini formed an interim Government after the collapse of the centre-right coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon. This week parliament will decide whether the Dini administration should continue until the end of the Italian EU presidency in June. Signor Berlusconi, who has flirted with the idea of a "government of national unity" to complete electoral reform, indicated at the weekend that elections were back on the agenda.

Because of her status — she

is the sister of Gianni Agnelli, the Fiat magnate — and her lack of involvement in current politics, Signora Agnelli has a freewheeling, no-nonsense style which some find refreshing and others alarming. She retired from politics at the last election and had not expected to be "fished out" to serve in Signor Dini's "technocratic" Government. But her privileged upbringing had served her well. "When I went to Luxembourg they asked me if I would like to meet the Grand Duke. I said, of course, we used to play on the beach together on the Riviera."

She said she had been "very fond" of Douglas Hurd when he was Foreign Secretary, and enjoyed his sense of humour, "but I have just as good a time with Malcolm Rifkind. I was brought up in a very British atmosphere".

Signora Agnelli said she did

not, however, share the "British-style" Euro-scepticism displayed by Signor Martino. Most Italians regarded doubts about European integration as "anathema". Although Italy is unlikely to meet the terms for a single currency, it remains committed to full monetary union. Signora Agnelli believed Euro-MPs should have more say in legislation, giving them "the power a parliament would have nationally". Majority voting in the Council of Ministers was inevitable because of future enlargement with a consequent erosion of national veto power.

Europe's approach to the former Yugoslavia had been a mistake, with each country voicing its own interests. Britain and France had made a "fantastic" contribution, but in the end "the impression Europe gave was of not being there". It was "a shame" that Richard Holbrooke, the American mediator, had had to save the day in Bosnia.

Cyprus is a European problem, too — it has applied for membership, as has Turkey — and there should be at least a European mediator alongside the American one."



Susanna Agnelli, the Italian Foreign Minister, favours a joint EU foreign policy and hopes that Britain will agree to the appointment of special mediators

## Bombings spur talks in Corsica

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Government is holding secret talks with Corsican separatists after an intensified wave of bombings on the Mediterranean island.

Early yesterday another bomb exploded in a government school building in Bastia, causing serious damage but no injuries. The outlawed National Front for the Liberation of Corsica (FLNC), which wants autonomy from France, claimed responsibility for the attack, the ninth since January 1.

On Friday a military recreation building in southern Corsica was destroyed by separatists and over the weekend bombs exploded outside the homes of two prominent judges.

The surge of violence is intended to renew pressure on French officials who have begun secret discussions with the separatists, according to *Liberation* newspaper. Government negotiators are said to have offered an amnesty to leaders of the independence movement as well as "material concessions" on reforming the island's institutions.

## Clerides accuses police of killings

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU

PRESIDENT Clerides of Cyprus has accused his police force of committing murders and of being involved in bombings, arson attacks and gangland battles to control drugs, gambling and prostitution.

Some killings were carried out with the knowledge of superiors, and officers at the highest level were involved in corruption, he added. There will be an inquiry.

Nearly a million Britons holiday every year on the island, where mugging is unknown and only the paranoid lock cars. But in recent months owners of seedy cabarets and massage parlours have been assassinated by masked gunmen, cars blown up and nightclubs set ablaze. Eight murders from last year remain unsolved.

The President's allegations were made public at the weekend in a letter he wrote accepting the resignation of the assistant police chief, Costas Pappas. The chief, Andreas Potamiris, is abroad, but is expected to resign for "health reasons".

In November it was revealed that officers in Limassol were guilty of torturing suspects in a manner "reminiscent of the Middle Ages and the Inquisition". An independent board of inquiry reported there was "an organised system of subjecting detainees to inhuman torture aimed at securing confessions".

After an inquiry, the Government said victims were entitled to compensation. Twelve Limassol officers, including chief inspectors and superintendents, face the sack.

## Yeltsin adds his brick to 'rebirth' of cathedral

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

THE last bricks in the shell of the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour — destroyed by Stalin in 1931 — were laid in Moscow yesterday by President Yeltsin, Patriarch Aleksei II, and Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow.

The re-creation of this holy place renews people's faith that Russia will be reborn, like this cathedral," said Mr Yeltsin before a short service to mark the Russian Orthodox Christmas. The 330ft redbrick shell now towers over the Moscow river on what was an empty site a year ago. Its domes will be gilded over in time for Easter. The original cathedral was built to celebrate Russia's victory over Napoleon.

Behind the project is Mr Luzhkov, who has bullied public and private donors to finance it. More than 3,000 builders have worked round the clock to keep the church on its deadline of September 1997. The overall cost, not including the interior, is expected to be almost £200 million.

Critics of the new cathedral say it is an extravagant waste of money dreamed up by former Communist leaders keen to establish their credentials as Russian nationalists. Its admirers say it is an act of atonement for years of religious repression under the Soviet regime.

"It is a symbol of Orthodox Russia," said Boris Lyudskov, an engineer. "It is well known that it was built in honour of the patriotic war. So it is a symbol of the Russian people's ability to defend the independence of its motherland." But Valentina Cherdieva, a biologist, said it was a "sin" to rebuild the church. "It is too grandiose."

Leading article, page 17

## Nato to hit back after shootings

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

NATO troops in Bosnia, who have come under fire four times in three days, yesterday vowed to hit back with ferocity.

British troops came under fire in the towns of Sanski Most and Bosanska Krupa in northwest Bosnia on Saturday. French troops patrolling the Serb area of Sarajevo aimed cannon fire at unknown assailants amid wild shooting to celebrate Orthodox Christmas Eve.

A French Falcon 50 aircraft was also hit by two small-arms rounds as it came into Sarajevo to land yesterday, said Major Simon Haselock, spokesman for the 11or implementation force.

Spanish troops meanwhile patrolled the streets of Mostar, the divided southern Bosnian city, said to be "calm but tense" after a series of clashes between Muslims and Croats.

Croat police who shot dead a Muslim youth in the city used armour-piercing bullets which have a shattering effect on the human body, European Union officials said. The same kind of bullets, made of

strengthened steel and coated in copper, were also used to wound two Muslim police officers last Thursday, although it is not clear whether Croat police, soldiers or civilians fired the shots.

Hans Koschnik, the city's EU administrator, said yesterday that the situation could quickly become "catastrophic" if nothing was done to calm tensions.

American diplomacy will intensify this week ahead of the planned visit to Bosnia by President Clinton, in an attempt to shore up the Muslim-Croat Federation, a cornerstone of the fragile peace settlement. Richard Holbrooke, the architect of the accords concluded in November in Dayton, Ohio, will travel to the Balkans after warning that tension between Muslims and Croats is now the "greatest threat" to peace in Bosnia.

Mr Clinton is supposed to inspect the implementation force troops before January 23, the date he is to deliver his State of the Union address to Congress.



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## Investigators close in as 'lost' papers are found

## First Lady sinks deeper into mire of Whitewater



Bush: accused of being amateurish

## Russian informer 'betrayed' by Bush

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

GEORGE BUSH bagged his dealings with the Soviet Union, claims the former US Ambassador to Moscow, Jack Matlock. On one occasion, the former President inadvertently betrayed a highly placed Russian official who had secretly asked the Americans to alert Boris Yeltsin to the impending coup against Mikhail Gorbachev, says Mr Matlock in his memoirs.

"I would not have expected this from a former head of the CIA who prided himself on professionalism and was quick to condemn any leak of the most trivial information," writes Mr Matlock.

Partly due to the "reckless" indiscretion, Gary Popov, the economic reformer who warned of the impending coup, was on the plotter's shortlist of those to be arrested when they made their abortive coup attempt two months later. According to Mr Matlock, the Popov incident was symptomatic of the frequently amateurish and flawed dealings with Moscow by Mr Bush.

Mr Bush, he concludes, "always seemed just a step behind, always looking over his shoulder". Ronald Reagan, by contrast, is portrayed as an astute leader who readily accepted Mr Matlock's advice in developing Soviet policy.

Critics have greeted Mr Matlock's exhaustive account, *Autopsy on an Empire*, as the most intelligent analysis of the Soviet collapse so far. But there are suggestions that he is settling old scores. Despite his seniority as a Soviet expert, he felt frozen out of Washington's top policy circles when Mr Bush took office in 1989.

HILLARY CLINTON is to publish a book this week on how society can better serve children, but the big promotional tour her publishers have planned for her is likely to prove a debacle.

The First Lady is in deep political trouble after the belated release of several incriminating documents last week, and the last thing journalists will want to ask her about is her views on children. Indeed, seven of the ten questions in her first interview with *Newsweek* yesterday concerned the Whitewater affair and her role in the 1993 sacking of the seven-man White House travel office.

Mrs Clinton refused to predict whether she would be subpoenaed to testify before congressional investigators, but it looks increasingly possible they will now take that extraordinary step.

Over the weekend Alfonso D'Amato, the Senate White-water committee chairman, accused the White House of "conduct that borders on contempt, obstruction and making false statements" following its sudden and suspicious "discovery" of the long-sought documents.

Mr D'Amato and other investigators have already subpoenaed, interrogated and — in two cases — levelled perjury charges against the First Lady's closest friends and aides. It is clear that they are now homing in on Mrs Clinton herself.

The only passage in her book likely to command im-

mediate attention is an apparent admission that she has in the past contemplated leaving her husband. "My strong feelings about divorce and its effects on children have caused me to bite my tongue more than a few times during my own marriage and to think instead about what I could do to be a better wife," she writes.

The first set of documents included a memorandum by David Watkins, a former White House aide, saying there would have been "hell to pay" had he refused Mrs Clinton's demands that he immediately sack the travel office. There was no obvious reason for the dismissals, except that Harry Thomason, a Hollywood friend of the Clintons, wanted the business for his own aviation firm. The memo, released late last Wednesday night, flatly contradicts evidence Neil Eggleston, a White House lawyer, gave a General Accounting Office investigation of the sackings in 1994. Mrs Clinton "does not know the origin of the decision" to dismiss the travel office and "had no role in the decision", he said.

All but one of the sacked men were later exonerated and rehired. The seventh was tried for embezzlement but a jury took just two hours to acquit him. Mrs Clinton told *Newsweek* "I just don't have any memory" of ordering the sackings, but a House committee has subpoenaed Mr Watkins and Mr Thomason to testify.

The Watkins memo also



President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, showing four-year-old Brandon Denny, a survivor of the Oklahoma bombing, around the White House at the weekend

referred intriguingly to the "secret service situation" earlier in 1993. It appears he failed to act on Mrs Clinton's orders that suspect agents be transferred after *Newsweek* published a story about her throwing objects at her husband in their private quarters.

The second set of documents was released on Friday night,

again too late for the evening news. These showed how much Mrs Clinton had worked for and charged Madison Guaranty, the failed Arkansas savings and loan bank at the centre of the Whitewater affair, while a Little Rock lawyer in the 1980s.

Mrs Clinton has stated on oath that she did minimal

work for Madison, but the 166 pages of billing records show she had at least 14 meetings or conversations with a Madison executive about one deal that lost the bank \$3 million.

The records were subpoenaed two years ago but the White House insisted they had vanished until an aide found them while sorting papers.

## Clinton gesture opens way to deal on budget

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

THE American Government resumed full operations yesterday after a surprise breakthrough in top-level White House budget negotiations. But the worst snowstorm to hit the East Coast in years seemed likely to keep most of Washington's federal offices closed for a few more days at least. Even yesterday's budget talks were cancelled.

The breakthrough came late on Saturday when President Clinton suddenly and unexpectedly complied with Republican demands that he provide his own plan to balance the nation's books in seven years using independently approved economic assumptions. The plan — Mr Clinton's fifth in a year — is very different from the far more draconian Republican blueprint for shrinking the Government and achieving a balanced budget by 2002. It is still uncertain whether the two can be melded into a single mutually acceptable bill, but the President's gesture was enough to persuade the Republicans to fund fully until January 26 a Government that has been partly shut down since December 15.

Last Friday, retreating in the face of intense public pressure, the Republicans had agreed temporarily to reopen the Government, but only with sufficient funds to perform a very limited number of critical functions. Most of the 760,000 affected employees would have sat in their offices with nothing to do.

At a Republican presidential debate in South Carolina on Saturday night, the candidates had bitterly denounced Robert Dole, the Senate leader and clear front-runner for his party's nomination, for chastising that retreat. Phil Gramm, the Texas senator, accused him of betraying Republican principles in his eagerness to compromise with Mr Clinton. Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee

senator, said Mr Dole was a great deal maker, but would lose the White House and cost his party control of Congress in next November's elections.

But Mr Clinton's offer, announced just as the debate began, gave the absent Mr Dole a chance to argue that he has broken the impasse and revived hopes of the Republican Congress and the White House agreeing on America's first genuinely balanced budget in three decades.

Mr Clinton said his plan showed "you can balance the budget in seven years and protect Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment, and provide tax relief to working families". Republicans disagreed, but at least the two sides can now begin serious bargaining.

Mr Clinton would cut \$154 billion (about £100 billion) from projected spending on Medicare and Medicaid, the previously sacrosanct health insurance programmes for the elderly and poor, while the Republicans would cut \$318 billion. Mr Clinton would cut taxes by \$87 billion. The Republicans by \$241 billion. He would cut other spending on discretionary domestic programmes by about 25 per cent less than the Republicans.



Dole: denounced by Republican rivals

## 'Willy' whale begins trip to freedom

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

KEIKO, the 21ft killer whale that starred in the hit film *Free Willy*, was winched from his cramped pool in a Mexico City amusement park yesterday on the first stage of his long journey to freedom.

The 17-year-old Orca appeared in the 1993 film about a boy's effort to free a captive whale, and his fans and the Warner Bros studio joined to give him a Hollywood-style happy ending.

In a case of life imitating art, Keiko was being moved to a

newly-built salt water tank in Oregon where experts will prepare him for release into the sea. He will be the first killer whale ever returned to the wild.

"The movie ended beautifully, but [Warner Bros] worried that the star was in a facility that did not meet his needs," said David Phillips, director of the Free Willy Foundation set up with a \$2 million (£1.29 million) donation from the studio. Keiko was captured off Iceland in 1978 and has spent

his life performing stunts at Mexico's Reino Aventura amusement park.

Although the amusement park denies that he is in bad health, Keiko is about a tonne 'underweight' and suffers from a skin irritation which causes cauliflower-like warts. His dorsal fin droops and his teeth are worn from chewing on his concrete pool.

Keiko reached sexual maturity at the age of 15, but the amusement park could not afford a mate. Families stayed

up past midnight to watch the 3.5-tonne whale being hoisted out of his pool in a canvas sling and lowered into a metal container, squealing and flapping his fins.

Experts hope that Keiko's new saltwater tank, which is five times larger than his Mexican pool, and a more varied fish diet, will prepare the film star for life in the wild in about a year. However, some conservationists believe that releasing the whale will endanger his life.

## Bird conservationist accused of smuggling endangered species

BY JAMES BONE

A BIRD-LOVER since childhood, Tony Silva earned an international reputation as a protector of such rare species as the Blue-throated Condor, the African Grey and the Red-vented Cockatoo.

While still in his twenties, he wrote scholarly monographs on parrots and macaws, became a sought-after speaker, and was appointed head of an aviary on the Canary Islands which houses

one of the world's largest collection of rare birds.

Mr Silva, however, now faces charges in Chicago of running an illegal bird-smuggling ring to supply private collectors around the world. If convicted, Mr Silva, 35, faces up to 45 years in jail. His trial had been scheduled for January 16, but has now been delayed while prosecutors consider a plea bargain.

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which mounted a five-year investiga-

tion code-named Operation Renegade, Mr Silva smuggled \$1.3 million (£830,000) worth of endangered species between 1985 and 1992.

Among the smuggled birds were at least 186 Hyacinth macaws, a species on the verge of extinction. Each bird can fetch up to \$15,000.

Prosecutors say Mr Silva worked with his mother, Gilda Daoud, 62, and bought illegal birds from an Argentine bird dealer, who mixed them with shipments of legal birds.

## Calls for vengeance as hero of Hamas is buried

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM



Mourners in Gaza City crowd round the coffin of Yehia Ayyash, the Hamas bomber killed in an operation by Shin Bet, the Israeli security service

PROGRESS recently towards peace in the Middle East suffered a severe reversal yesterday. Israel imposed an indefinite ban on Palestinians entering from the occupied territories and halted all joint patrols with the Palestinian police, in an attempt to thwart threatened retaliation for Friday's killing of master-bomber Yehia Ayyash.

"A renewal of suicide attacks against Jewish civilians can only be a matter of time now," said one official as Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, to which Ayyash belonged, declared an end to the self-imposed temporary ban on attacks against Israeli targets which has kept relative calm for four months.

Even ardent Israeli supporters of the fragile peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation were shocked at the hatred and mass support for revenge which was demonstrated at Ayyash's funeral in Gaza on Saturday, attended by more than 100,000 mourners and claimed to be the biggest seen there for years.

There is blood in our mouths which we want to spit

in the face of the unjust world," said Sheikh Nafez Azzam, leader of the militant Islamic Jihad group, speaking at the graveside of the man credited with masterminding suicide bombs which killed more than 50 Jews and wounded at least 250 others.

"This incident will have a very negative impact," said Jamil Hamarni, a Hamas spokesman in Jerusalem, as extraordinary precautions were imposed on all forms of Israeli public transport. "The period of calm has been completely blown up."

At least 50,000 workers were prevented from entering Israel from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip in a move which Israel claimed was vital to try to minimise the likelihood of suicide bombers crossing into the Jewish state to wreak revenge. Many Palestinians said that the economic hardship imposed would only increase support for Islamic groups like Hamas two weeks before the first Palestinian elections, scheduled for January 20.

As Israeli Star of David flags were ritually burnt during Ayyash's chilling funeral

procession, a voice from one of the mosque loudspeakers cried "Tell [Shimon] Peres that millions of Yehia Ayyashes will be born", to which the huge crowd answered: "Yes to Iz a-din al-Qassam" — a reference to Hamas's military wing whose members have been instructed to carry out the revenge attacks.

Both among Israelis and Palestinians, the 30-year-old electrical engineering graduate had enjoyed an inflated reputation that had transformed him into an almost legendary figure even before his assassination by 50 grams of explosives concealed in a cellular telephone.

This reputation was enhanced with yesterday's disclosure that, only the day before his killing in an operation by the Israeli security service Shin Bet, the wife of Israel's most wanted terrorist had given birth to a son.

However, Leah Rabin, widow of the assassinated Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, who first gave Ayyash the Hebrew nickname meaning "The Engineer", said: "I regret that my husband was unable to see this day."

## Geologists claim to have found Sodom

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

SOME 4,000 years after the destruction of the world's most wicked city, two British geologists are convinced that they have located the site of Sodom on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea, rather than the shallow southern part where archaeologists have traditionally placed it. Should the theory, outlined in the *Journal of Engineering Geology*, published by the Geological Society of London, prove true, the biblical city destroyed by fire and brimstone because of the sexual perversion of its inhabitants

would be located on what is now the Jordanian east coast of the Dead Sea.

Basing their findings on studies of the lowest point on earth, Graham Harris and Anthony Beardow are convinced that the biblical story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is based on geological reality.

"The jigsaw now fits," Mr Harris said. "The biblical story can be rationalised. Instead of something like Atlantis or the old Norse legends, we can show that rational geological thinking corroborates the story." Mr Harris believes that the ruins of Sodom could be lying under the

mud and debris "like London after the Blitz" and hints that bodies might be found encased in mud.

According to the geologists' research, an area of the Dead Sea further north than the previously accepted site produced bitumen. Genesis reported that the Vale of Siddim where the sinful cities lay was "full of slimepits", by which they claim was meant "bitumen pits".

The British experts speculate that a large earthquake could have caused an inferno and liquefaction of the bitumen on a scale big enough to have swallowed both Sodom and Gomorrah.

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LONDON

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A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

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**Geoff Hinchey's assessment of films in London and others**  
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The V&A's new director tells Simon Tait a story of high hopes and bitter disillusion

Death by a million cuts

When Virginia Bottomley visits the Victoria and Albert Museum, she will be confronted by yet another arts crisis. This is a particularly baleful one because, with visitor numbers the highest for ten years, the exhibition programme reinstated in two vast courts, new galleries open and a new director, the museum was on a surge. Bottomley has stopped the surge with a £1 million cut to the V&A's grant for next year, with the same promise for 1997-98.



Busted flush: Alan Borg has serious financial headaches as a result of cuts to the museum's annual grant

The cut is a cruel baptism for the Heritage Secretary's host, Alan Borg, who became director just two months ago and suddenly faces a budget deficit of £4 million by 1997. Even before the Budget in November and its public-spending fall-out, he had a £200 million repair programme to finance, the refurbishment of galleries, many of which are, he says, "a disgrace to the standards of a national museum", the launch of a £40 million landmark building project for the millennium and the completion of a multimillion-pound computer network.

When the new director began, he lifted the V&A's depressed mood immediately by removing a layer of administration in his first week — without firing anyone — and not only opening the director's door but stepping through it for weekly visits to museum sections to discuss both their problems and plans and his own.

He is anxious not to shoot down raised morale, by cutting jobs, but he might not have a choice. "I cannot but ask if they could manage without certain posts, and I've no doubt they would say yes but that the jobs would not get done," he says. "There are areas where we need more staff, not fewer, to complete the tasks we have."

Borg introduced admission charges at the Imperial War Museum, and when he was appointed to run the V&A, he was widely expected to introduce admission charges immediately, a move which his predecessors had fought shy of in the face of opposition from a powerful group of anti-charging trustees.

Charging for entrance is not the solution to our funding problems

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## RUGBY UNION



22

England to gamble on wing and and prayer in Paris

## CRICKET



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One-day rehearsal falls flat in Cape Town

## RACING



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Dunwoody confirms eminence of grey favourite

## SPORT FOR ALL



32

Olympic dreams that are strictly ballroom

# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 8 1996



Bubbling over with elation, excitement and relief, Ferdinand celebrates his last-gasp equaliser for Newcastle United in their dramatic draw at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

## Injury-time equaliser saves Newcastle at Stamford Bridge

# Ferdinand stages great escape

Chelsea ..... 1  
Newcastle United ..... 1

By ROSE HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE stopwatch yesterday condemned Chelsea to an FA Cup replay at Fortress St James' Park, Newcastle. On the run of play at Stamford Bridge, it was a travesty, but in time added on for injuries — indeed, time for what the referee, Stephen Lodge, may well have deemed to be feigning injury — Les Ferdinand struck his 23rd goal in 26 appearances for Newcastle. Preying on a dreadful error by the Russian goalkeeper, Dmitri Kharine, a Londoner had thus saved the game and spared Newcastle becoming only the second FA Cup Premier side to go out of the Cup on the weekend of the third-round tie.

It had come out of the blue. Time was running against Newcastle, the crowd — 6,000 short of a full house, such are the prohibitive prices at Stamford Bridge so soon after Christmas — had stopped singing their *Flying the Blue Flag* song and under Newcastle's late, high-ball onslaught, had maintained a shrill, pleading whistling. Yet the one whistle that counted, that of the referee, was silent as, in the third minute added on for time-wasting and injuries, Ferdinand saved the game.

Such crucial return for Chelsea. In the first half, in particular, with Wise buzzing around the midfield, floating here and stinging there, Chelsea were vivacious. They are

so much more practised at playing with a Continental formation. Newcastle do not really trust it and, having tried it in the first half, Kevin Keegan, their manager, dispensed with it as soon as he could at the interval, pushing Albert, one of three centre backs, into midfield and reshaping his forces into 4-4-2.

Newcastle were especially unable to shape the game on the right, where they emphatically lack the wing play of the injured Gillespie, a loss that may yet halt their championship flow. Without him, Barton was an isolated figure, trying to be full back, wing back and winger without assistance down the flank. Wise was looking for the space around Barton, looking for Phelan, the Chelsea left back. Significantly, almost predictably, it was a move that flowed from Wise to Phelan and then to Hughes that prised open Newcastle's defence. Time was running against Newcastle, the crowd — 6,000 short of a full house, such are the prohibitive prices at Stamford Bridge so soon after Christmas — had stopped singing their *Flying the Blue Flag* song and under Newcastle's late, high-ball onslaught, had maintained a shrill, pleading whistling. Yet the one whistle that counted, that of the referee, was silent as, in the third minute added on for time-wasting and injuries, Ferdinand saved the game.

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There had been little of the dynamism of Newcastle. Beardsley had begun tentatively, had even tried to mix it physically in the battle of the bantams with Wise, but, just before half-time, better suited to using his craft than wasting his energy, he produced a first-time pass towards Albert. The tall, guardsman-like Belgian needed one touch to bring the ball down and a second

with his left foot to smite the ball with awesome power. It beat Kharine comprehensively, but rebounded mockingly off the goalkeeper's right-hand post.

Chelsea, as they had after dominating the first half against Liverpool a week ago, then allowed the opposition to come back at them. There is a streak of ultra-defensiveness, of stubbornness, about Chelsea that shows why their run of only one defeat in ten matches includes five draws.

But he knew that this had been a great escape, just as Hoddle — now back in his own dressing-room trying to pick up these boys, they are destroyed — knew that the glory has possibly passed. In their last match, at Queens

told them at half-time you've always got to have this in the Cup, you've got to have it in the league, you've got to have it in life.

But he knew that this had been a great escape, just as Hoddle — now back in his own dressing-room trying to pick up these boys, they are destroyed — knew that the glory has possibly passed. In their last match, at Queens

Confusing draw ..... 23  
Derby's injured pride ..... 23  
United at fault ..... 24  
Windfall for Hereford ..... 25

Park Rangers, who now await the winner of the replay, Chelsea had won in the last seconds on the watch.

Now they were denied and for those who pointed in the dressing room to Kharine's error, Hoddle countered: "In the last seven games, we've made mistakes in front of the opponents' goal. Today, we made at least two mistakes up there, a professional should know when he has erred."

Indeed, and Hughes, lamenting the added time, should examine how the exaggerated way he lay down, allowed himself to be carried off on a stretcher and then jumped up to rejoin the play, may have invited the unwelcome end.

Chelsea manager, was in the referee's room, asking — he says calmly — whether the official's watch had stopped. Keegan was breathing relief.

"My team lacked passion in the first half," he admitted. "I



FA CUP FOURTH ROUND DRAW

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# Scrum for possession enhances rugby's appearance

The contract for televising the rugby union five nations' championship from 1998 is circulating in the corridors of power and already the signs are that the BBC will not be dancing in the streets of Shepherds Bush.

Favourite to land it is Sky Sports, but the satellite channel could yet be disappointed — either by a late tackle from the Prime Minister or by a counter-offer from a rivalised ITV Sport, still basking in the success of acquiring both Formula One grand prix motor racing and the FA Cup Final.

More by luck than design, the contenders for the five

nations' crown had their biggest games of the season at the weekend and while it would be foolish to say that either channel's coverage held any clues to greater ambitions, they both confirmed one encouraging thing: that club rugby, if only at the top level, is capable of providing very good television indeed.

Yesterday, ITV Sport brought us the first Heineken Cup final, the European tournament that seems to be over almost before it has begun. Having ridden its meteorological luck last weekend with live coverage of the semi-finals, that coincided with the entire domestic programme



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

being wiped out, ITV's good fortune continued with a thrilling final between Cardiff and Toulouse that went right down to the last penalty kick.

These days a year is a long time in rugby union but if next year's final does not include either Bath or Leicester then the semi-finals surely will. This year, however, the two sides were slogging it out in

live on Sky Sports 2 on Saturday afternoon. Not only was it cracking television, but crucially, Leicester's one-point victory ensured that the Courage Clubs Championship race is not yet over for the season.

If the Heineken Cup has come a year too early for English and Scottish teams, then it is a year too late for Alastair Hignell, the ITV an-

chorman who had such an unhappy time of it during the World Cup in South Africa.

Back in June, I wrote that what Hignell lacked as a presenter was the "familiarity factor", a quality that comes only with match practice. This championship has been the ideal match practice and Hignell already looks a much happier man. It was not his fault that the ITV cameras occasionally had trouble keeping up with the ball or that the director seemed to have a strange aversion to positioning a camera behind the posts for penalty kicks.

On Sky, Stuart Barnes also had problems with presentation last season. The satellite

channel's response has been to bring in the experienced David Babin as anchor, leaving Barnes to do what he does best — talking tactics and dishing out the analytical abuse. Earlier in the season, I thought Babin looked too smooth by half — more at home in the 19th hole than a rugby club. But he has roughed it up just a tad and now does a first-class job of interviewing studio guests (Peter Wheeler, of Leicester, and Brian Ashton, of Bath) and bringing Barnes into the sort of pre- and post-match conversations for which only the satellite channel has time.

By contrast, ITV has so little time for chat, you wonder why

it invites studio guests at all. At least for yesterday's final, it resisted the usual temptation of arriving mob-handed with former internationals and fielded only two — Peter Wheeler (again) and Gareth Davies, of Cardiff.

With Hignell asking the questions and John Taylor and Steve Smith in the commentary box, the ITV team looked even longer in the tooth than Cardiff's three-quarter line. Given the bold ambitions that the channel, and indeed the rugby authorities, nurse for the tournament, one present international should have been a pre-requisite. Iuan Evans and Will Carling would have been top of my list.

## McLeish in danger of running out of sympathy at Fir Park

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

THE lower end of the Bell's Scottish League premier division is a shabby neighbourhood and the football clubs who find themselves there feel dispossessed. Motherwell supporters may have a particular inclination to grumble. For them, it is as if they have been evicted after father lost the family mansion in a poker game.

Last season, a sustained stylishness made Motherwell runners-up in the premier division and proud owners of a UEFA Cup place. His more bitter critics will argue that Alex McLeish, if not a reckless gambler, has been prone to misguided speculation that has seen Motherwell's lost prosperity.

Of course, the idea that the club has appointed a calamity as its manager is far-fetched. It was, after all, McLeish, in his first season in the post, who steered Motherwell to that satisfying second place. He did so with the team that he had inherited from Toramy McLean, his predecessor as manager, but nobody can seriously claim that McLeish alone has infected Fir Park with failure since then.

The club has long been prone to ill-health because its location, in a town hit by the decline of the steel industry and far too close to Glasgow, makes it vulnerable. The occasional success is a respite from the struggle. McLean was a formidable manager at Motherwell and brought the club the Scottish Cup in 1991, but even he was not spared the times of dread.

Motherwell, after a 1-0 defeat away to Celtic on Saturday, are in ninth position, but the surroundings should not feel so very strange. In 1992, they finished eighth. Near the beginning of McLean's tenure, when he was just beginning to restore a club that he had taken over in ruined condition, Motherwell should even have been relegated.

In 1986, the premier division was instead expanded to save them. Then, it was whispered that Motherwell, had they gone out of the top flight, would also have gone out of business. Subsequent seasons, though, saw McLean marshal the Fir Park club with extraordinary shrewdness.

### THIRD ROUND

Berwick Rangers v Arman Athletic v Dundee United, Caithness Thistle v Spartans or East Fife, Clyde or Brechin v Dundee, Clydebank v Stirling Albion, Dornoch v Keith v Rangers, Dunfermline v Arbroath, Dundee v St Mirren, Falkirk v Stirling Albion, Greenock Morton v Montrose, Hamilton v St Johnstone, Heart of Midlothian v Motherwell, Hibernian v Falkirk, Motherwell v Aberdeen, Ross Rangers v Queen's Park, Ross County v Forth, Whitehill Welfare or Fraserburgh v Celtic.

Tea to be played on January 27

McLeish, in his first managerial appointment, must try to duplicate McLean's remarkable exploits. There is, all the same, a limited amount of sympathy available to the present manager. He has, by Motherwell's standards, spent heavily, getting through most of the £1.75 million raised by the sale of Phil O'Donnell to Celtic last season.

None of the newcomers, however, has made a great impact. In fairness, Motherwell have been hampered by serious injuries, but, against Celtic, when the team was only two or three players short of full-strength, the impression of sickness still prevailed. Nor did the third round draw for the Scottish Cup, made in the evening, promise a tonic. Aberdeen will be menacing visitors to Fir Park.

McLeish will have to find a way of implanting conviction in this team, because Motherwell's relegation looks entirely feasible at present and no manager can ever avoid the blame for such failure. Slight consolation lies in the fact that Falkirk, 4-0 losers to Rangers on Saturday, have contrived to be marginally worse.

Two goals from Ally McCoist at Brockville brought him level with Bob McPhail's Scottish League record of 230 for the Ibrox club. Despite such lofty statistics, though, not even Rangers are spared a brush with gritty reality. They have been drawn away to Keith or Dornoch in the Scottish Cup. Celtic travel to Fraserburgh or Whitehill Welfare.

## Rodber omitted for visit to France England launch Sleightholme on wing and a prayer

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND will make the gambler's throw when they play France in Paris on January 20, the opening day of the rugby union five nations' championship. Not content with restlessly shifting their back row yet again, they will introduce Jon Sleightholme to the wing after a mere four league games for Bath this season.

Four times in four matches the back row has changed emphasis: this time Tim Rodber, ever present in England's past 18 matches (even when not selected, he appeared as a replacement against Western Samoa during the World Cup), gives way to Steve Ojomoh, who will win his eleventh cap at blind-side flanker.

But the omission of Rodber comes as less of a surprise than the inclusion of Sleightholme, whose debut will come against one of the trickiest and most experienced of players, Philippe Saint-André, the France captain. At 23, Sleightholme has served his apprenticeship with England, colts, under-21 and A teams but his inability to hold down a place in Bath's senior side this season graphically illustrates the gamble England have taken.

"We decided to put an out-and-out right wing in the No 14 shirt," Jack Rowell, the England manager, said yesterday, echoing a comment he made earlier this season in respect of the No 7 jersey. The search for a specialist open-side flanker restored Andy Robinson to the international stage for all of one match and

one can only hope that Sleightholme lasts longer: even Rowell confessed that James Naylor, the Orrell wing, would have been considered had he been fit and the manager regretted the absence through injury of the experienced duo, Tony Underwood and Ian Hunter.

Sleightholme replaces Damien Hopley, who was himself playing out of position at England's best. Normally a centre, Hopley received few

### TEAM

M J Call (Bath), J M Sleightholme (Bath), W D C Carling (Prestegues), captain, J C Grayson (Bath), R Underwood (Leicester/Rugby), P J Grayson (Northampton), M J S Dawson (Northampton), S C Rowntree (Leicester), M P Reagan (Bristol), J Leonard (Harlequins), S O Ojomoh (Bath), M O Johnson (Leicester), M C Bayfield (Northampton), L B N Dalglish (Worcester), B B Clarke (Bath), replacements: J E B Callard (Bath), P R de Glanville (Bath), K P P Bracken (Bristol), R G Davis (Bath), V E Uboogu (Bath), T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army)

opportunities during the lacklustre displays against South Africa and Western Samoa two months ago but might have expected longer to bed down in the position. That opportunity will be granted instead to Sleightholme, given that Rowell hopes his chosen XV will go through the championship.

The Yorkshireman, who arrived at Bath in September 1994 after a glittering career with Hull Ionians and Wakefield, was watched by Mike Slemen — who should know wing play if anyone does — at Bath on Saturday, though he

received little chance to impress in rain-swept defeat against Leicester.

Rodber's doom was sealed even before his premature departure with a twisted knee and ankle during Northampton's victory against Nottingham on Saturday. "If Rodber had been in form we would not have changed the back row," Rowell said, "but regretfully he has been off-key for a while. We have done our best, but his loss of form has continued through several games going back to the World Cup. We have talked to his coach at Northampton, Ian McGeechan, and Tim himself about this. Unfortunately, the corner has not been turned."

In the light of such comments Hopley might reasonably have hoped for the same long-term consideration, but the addition of Ojomoh, while justified on sound league form, does not answer the absence of a focal point among the England forwards. Tony Russ, the Leicester director of rugby, put it into words over the weekend: "There is no one in there [the England pack] who ties the forwards together and gives them focus," he said. "You need a workhorse and, while Dean Richards is so far out of the squad that his return is not to be contemplated, I would have him in my side every time — if England are to play to their strengths."

England will go to Paris as champions of Europe from last season but so much water has passed under the bridge since last March that, for the first time in several years, they will go there as underdogs.



Cazalbou break through a despairing tackle by Lewis to notch the second try for the French champions

## Cardiff bow to superior skills

Cardiff..... 18  
Toulouse..... 21  
(aet; 15-15 at 80min)

By DAVID HANDS

THE inaugural European club tournament received, almost to the last detail, the final it deserved at the National Stadium, Cardiff, yesterday. If ultimately the game lacked the sustained brilliance that its opening quarter promised, it offered excitement, skill and a deserved French victory, setting a standard for future finals to live up to.

Toulouse have long fought for the European dimension to club rugby: in the northern hemisphere there was, therefore, an element of justice when, in the final minute of extra time, Christophe Devauld kicked the penalty which won a last match.

Toulouse had threatened to sweep Cardiff away in the first minutes of a game played, mercifully, in remarkably good conditions. Their speed of thought and ability to break the first line of Welsh defence made it all the more incomprehensible when Devauld resorted to kicking mode as the match wore on — and not

very efficient kicking mode at that. Guy Noves, the Toulouse coach, attributed that to Cardiff's strength at lineout and maul, but for much of the match the French champions overcame the height of Jones and had ample possession with which to attack. Ball in hand, which is their traditional game. They chose, instead, to seek field position and Cardiff, solidly efficient, could cope with that.

Cardiff had to drag themselves back into the final through the accuracy of Ad-

### Bath falter

29

an Davies' goalkicking after being rocked back on their heels in the sixth and tenth minutes. First Ougier paved the way for a splendid try by Castaignède, who subsequently provided the scoring pass for Cazalbou. Both tries featured timing of the pass and overall pace which Cardiff could not match.

"It's a couple of notches up on the Heineken League," Davies said. "It's not the intensity or the tackling but the skill element and the speed element. Not many situations

arise in the league where we can't convert pressure into points. But we couldn't against Toulouse."

That, of course, is what British sides seek from European competitions — higher standards. To that end, representatives of clubs from England, Wales, were united in their opinion that Cardiff rivalled the best clubs in France. But more, one suspects, by the rigour of their play — as in football, the difference is the work ethic as against pure skill. Yet there is a valid place for both and Cardiff, favoured by the referee's whistle, demonstrated to a 20,000 crowd that Welsh players can live with the best — in Europe anyway.

But for some rushes of blood, notably by Bertie when he had opened up the defence, Toulouse might have extended their initial 12-point advantage. Yet Davies nibbled away with two penalties before the interval, when the crowd greeted with glee the replacement of Ring by Jonathan Davies. But the old hero could produce no magic in rugby union's new era. Castaignède rammed over a long dropped goal but Adrian Davies kept his side in touch. As the clock

## Another player of consequence rolls off Bath production line

ACCLAIMING new rugby internationals might seem routine to the citizens of Bath, given the quality of personnel at their celebrated club, but the sight of a pyjama-clad young lady rushing into the streets of the spa town yesterday morning, to share with Jon Sleightholme his call-up for the England side in Paris, illustrated the surprising nature of Jack Rowell's decision. Sleightholme freely concedes that he was as astonished as his girlfriend, Judy, at the news of his selection. "I haven't come down off the ceiling yet," the wing said. "You take part in squads and A team tours and matches, but, when it comes to the real thing, nothing can prepare you for the sheer elation of the moment."

Born in North Malton in Yorkshire, Sleightholme joined Bath from Wakefield after spells with the junior

Peter Bills on the young Yorkshireman elevated to England's ranks for Paris

clubs, Grimsby and Hull Ionians. At 5ft 10in and 14st, he was known as a pacy runner, but large question marks loomed over his abilities in defence, and for much of his first 12 months at Bath that weakness was emphasised by opponents. However, on the England A tour of Australia last summer, he worked closely with Mike Slemen, the former England and British Lions left wing, to iron out those deficiencies.

"On a tour like that, you have the time and opportunity to learn," Sleightholme said. "It's not only what you do on the training ground and in

matches, but the discussions you have off the field. I learnt a lot from 'Slem' on that tour just by listening to what he said. I knew I had to work on the defensive side of my game, but believe I have now improved considerably."

Sleightholme, a teacher of physical education and general studies at Culverhay's School in Bath, moved to English's top club for the challenge. At times, the competition for first-team places — he can play on either wing, but prefers the right — has been too much for him.

He admits his frustration at not yet securing a regular place with Bath, but his pedigree, for England Under-19 and Under-21, England Students and England A, marked him out as a player of consequence. Even the glitziest players have to prove themselves at Bath, a fact that Sleightholme has come to accept in his struggle for recognition.

"It is such a good club to be with because the standards to which they aspire elevate everyone's game," he said. "They are constantly moving forward, not standing still. This club won't let you rest on your laurels as individuals, on or off the field. They are always asking questions of you as a player and as a person. That has helped me to develop."

Perhaps the French are suitable first senior international opponents for Sleightholme, a wing who used Patrice Lagisquet, the French flyer, as his role model. "I played with him for the Barbarians at Leicester a few seasons ago and was hugely impressed," he said. If he performs his defensive duties in Paris as well as he can attack, England may have found a wing for all seasons.

## Cup's future spills over with promise

DAVID MILLER  
At the National Stadium

peoples, in style, skill, and character, that gives international competition its appeal, as well as base nationalism. For this reason, this competition is bound to prosper. Bath v Perpignan cannot fail to carry more appeal than Bath v Wasps.

There is no cause to say that the birth of the European Cup is any less auspicious than that in football 40 years ago. There is no conspicuous difference from when Real Madrid defeated Rhens 4-3 in Paris in 1956. The crowd was 38,000, compared with 22,000 yesterday, and the English were absentees from the competition, thanks to such Football League luminaries as its president, Joe Richards, a Barnsley coal merchant, who thought the cup unimportant and a distraction from domestic priorities.

Joe Mears, the mild-mannered Chelsea chairman, ac-

cepted exclusion, but not, the next season, Malt Busby and Manchester United. English and Scottish clubs are scheduled to join rugby's innovation next season. It is likely to be little time before Italians, Romanians, Russians, and others to seek to join them.

Football's European Cup, of course, was the pinnacle of a far broader base of professional leagues — though it sprang from the same narrow-mindedness that allows English rugby to suppose it is almost the best in the world. When Wolverhampton Wanderers beat Horned in a floodlit match in 1954, the *Daily Express* proclaimed: "World Champions".

*L'Equipe*, the French sports paper, thought they should show the English the truth. For better or worse, professionalism in rugby will concentrate the best players among a minority of clubs, so

the quality of the new cup should provide some spectacular entertainment without necessarily being either as exceptional as Real Madrid against Eintracht Frankfurt or as dull as Nottingham Forest against Hamburg.

The final yesterday ultimately produced the right conclusion. In the first 15 minutes, the champions of Wales were no match for the imaginative back play of the champions of France. The intervention of Ougier, the Toulouse full back, in the creation of the first try was perhaps the highlight of the afternoon, though Castaignède's sprint to produce the second try was barely less electric.

At this point it seemed that ponderous Welsh mauling was likely to see the result out of range by half-time, but Adrian Davies' five penalties forced extra time, Castaignède having increased Toulouse's total with a casual, almost perfectly dropped goal from more than 45 yards.

It seemed Cardiff's robust pack would now win the day, but justice was done when Deylaud's penalty in the last minute proved decisive.



Sleightholme celebrates his selection yesterday

green repl

ies frown  
in Derby  
cruellest  
defeats

portsmouth pro  
illing for South





# Fifteen replays give fourth round confused look

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

MANY ifs and buts remain, with 15 third-round replays to be staged, but the FA Cup fourth round draw produced an appropriate reward for Les Ferdinand, the goalscoring saviour of Newcastle United yesterday. If Newcastle overcome Chelsea at the second attempt, they will travel to Queens Park Rangers, where Ferdinand spent nine seasons. Newcastle, the FA Carling Premiership leaders, owe their continued involvement in the competition to rather more luck than judgment and also the sharp-finishing prowess of the England forward, who moved to St James' Park for £6

million in June last year. Trailing 1-0 at Stamford Bridge, and with the game deep into time added on for stoppages, he scored his 23rd goal of the season to force a rematch.

Though relieved at receiving another chance, Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, was none too enamoured about the possibility of a return to the capital. His side also play Arsenal in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter finals at Highbury on Wednesday.

"I think we'll have to set up a base in London," he said. "With a minute to go against Chelsea, the fourth round seemed a long way away for us. It looked as if our only way



**FA CUP**

Full draw ..... 21  
Generous Ferguson ..... 24  
Gallant Hereford ..... 25  
Rush's record ..... 26

ted, with Leeds having won a league fixture 2-0 at Burnley Park only 12 days ago, while Arsenal — a win over Sheffield United pending — would host Aston Villa in north London.

If Manchester City overcome Leicester City, they will meet Coventry City at Highfield Road, and if Wimbledon dispose of Watford, they will head north to meet Middlesbrough.

Neither match provides particularly mouth-watering prospects and yet, with only one representative from the Endcliffe Insurance League third division and none from the non-League brethren in the last-32 draw, many of the traditional oohs and aahs

were missing when the balls were plucked from the bag by Nat Lofthouse and Tom Finney at Lancaster Gate yesterday.

Liverpool were swiftly installed as 4-1 favourites to win the Cup — with Newcastle and Tottenham Hotspur joint second-favourites at 6-1 — after they were paired with either Fulham, flag-bearers for the third division, or Shrewsbury Town. It should be another opportunity for Ian Rush to add to his tally of Cup goals.

His solitary strike against Rochdale created a new modern-day record of 42, surpassing the previous total set by Denis Law. "I'd like to get to 50 now and reach a level that

## REPLAY DATES

7.45 unless stated  
Tuesday, January 16  
Blackburn Rovers v Ipswich Town, Oldham Athletic v Barnsley, Oxford United v Millwall, Port Vale v Crystal Palace, Sheffield United v Arsenal, Shrewsbury v Fulham (7.30)  
Wednesday, January 17  
Manchester City v Leicester City, Newcastle United v Chelsea, Nottingham Forest v Stockport County v Everton (7.30), Sunderland v Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur v Huddersfield United, Wimbledon v Watford, Wolverhampton Wanderers v Birmingham City.

no one will overtake." Rush said. "What with getting the MBE in the New Year Honours list, it has been a tremendous week for me."

In a third round relatively devoid of any catclysmic

upset, though Hereford United's 1-1 draw with Tottenham qualified as the best near-miss. Charlton Athletic and Brentford took most of the plaudits. Charlton beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-0 — giving Wednesday the dubious privilege of being the only Premier-side to disappear thus far — while Brentford won 2-1 at Norwich City. The victors now play each other.

"I'm just pleased we've been drawn at home and we'll have another sell-out crowd at The Valley," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said. "We're playing well at the moment but there'll be no complacency."

Manchester United will

hardly be complacent, either, after escaping with a 2-2 draw against Sunderland at Old Trafford. The winners from their next tussle, at Roker Park, will play Reading.

Everton, the holders, still have to bypass Stockport County before entertaining ideas of playing Crystal Palace or Port Vale. Joe Royle, the Everton manager, was so dismayed at the 2-2 draw with Stockport yesterday that he refused to contemplate anything further than the replay at Edgeley Park. However, he should not be too disheartened. Everton outrageously survived a one-sided tie at Bristol City last season and went on to lift the Cup.

## Leeds strike twice in injury time as underdogs suffer rough justice

### Fates frown on Derby in cruellest of defeats

Derby County ..... 2  
Leeds United ..... 4

By PETER BALL

THE FA Cup is littered with hard luck stories, but few can rival Derby County's yesterday. Reduced to ten men after half an hour, they briefly led by two goals and, although that advantage was quickly swept away, they were hanging on for a deserved draw until Leeds United scored twice deep into injury time.

"It was very unkind that we didn't get a draw," Jim Smith, the Derby manager, said afterwards. Unkind is an understatement. By the half-hour, his team had lost two of their three centre halves. Stimac limping away shortly before Rowett was sent off.

By the time that Leeds at last edged in front, in the 92nd minute, Yates, one of the outstanding figures in Derby's resistance, had been reduced to a limping passenger. To lose so cruelly was far less than they deserved.

With their terrible record in the competition, Leeds, however, were willing to accept the victory any way it came. They have gone past the fourth round only three times in the past 20 years and, for a time yesterday, their inept, sometimes sullen display suggested that they were unlikely to improve that record this year.

Leeds revealed their hand before the game, leaving out Tomas Brodin, their £4.5 million signing from Parma. Instead of Swedish skill, Howard Wilkinson, their manager, decided to play a team of battlers.

"I think I was proved right by the sort of match it was,"

Wilkinson said. "In the conditions, at that tempo and in that heated atmosphere, I picked a team to win a football match."

Games between Derby and Leeds went bad in the early Seventies when Brian Clough and Don Revie traded insults and their teams and supporters traded kicks and punches. At that time, Smith and Wilkinson were working together at Boston United and their friendship endures, but the hostility between the clubs also remains and there was a brooding, hostile atmosphere hanging over the Baseball Ground yesterday.

Whether that made Wilkinson right is a moot point. Leeds had offered nothing to reveal that they were a side from the FA Carling Premiership until after half-time, by then, Stimac had limped away after a clash with Deane and Rowett had been sent off, perhaps unjustly, for pulling down the same player.

Yet Derby made light of such handicaps as they reorganised. Van der Laan moved back to play resolutely alongside Yates and Kavanagh in central midfield, Flynn moved to right back, and, as they continued to take the game to Leeds, Derby scored twice in a minute early in the second half.

Gabbiadini, who kept all three Leeds centre backs occupied with his aggression and eager running, pounced as Trollope's shot deflected to him after a free kick. That goal was back luck for Leeds, but the next was a disaster as Palmer shepherded the ball back to Beene, allowing Simpson to get a foot in and prod it past the goalkeeper. "Palmer should have put it



Yeboah evades a challenge from Hoult, the Derby goalkeeper, as he seals victory for Leeds at the Baseball Ground

into the stand," Wilkinson said.

"I thought when we went two up that we'd be safe for a replay," Smith responded ruefully. However, before the hour, Leeds in their turn had scored two in a minute. They had sent on Wallace to exploit their numerical advantage after falling behind, but the

equalising strikes came from the other flank. First, Dorogin's shot deflected to McAllister, who laid it back for Speed to bring his side back into contention. Then, they were level as Yeboah touched Dorogin's cross to Deane, who scored from three yards.

With half an hour remaining, Leeds looked odds-on

winners, but the best chance as time began to run out fell to Derby. It was missed and, as Yates went off for treatment and returned limping and the clock ran out, Derby at last succumbed, Hoult's misjudgment allowing McAllister to put his side ahead and then Yeboah rubbing salt in the wounds with his final goal

before departing to join Ghana in the African nations' cup. How will Leeds manage without him in the fourth round?

DERBY COUNTY (3-4-3): D Hoult — D Yates, I Stimac (sub: P Trollope, 30min), G Rowett — J Kavanagh, R van der Laan, S Flynn, S Nicholson — P Simpson, R Williams, M Gabbiadini.  
LEEDS UNITED (3-1-4-2): M Beene — C Palmer, D Whithell (sub: R Wallace, 54), R Johnson — M Ford — G Kelly, G McAllister, G Speed, A Dorogin — A Yeboah, B Deane. Referee: P Jones.

## Portsmouth prove plain sailing for Southampton

Southampton ..... 3  
Portsmouth ..... 0

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

THE FA Cup is a great leveller, it is said, and local derbies are even more so: which makes it especially galling for Portsmouth that they rarely threatened to make a game of the Cup tie at The Dell yesterday.

Those looking for evidence of a growing gulf between the FA Carling Premiership and the Endcliffe Insurance League would have found plenty of material here. Not that Southampton should get too carried away: their victory against a team who looked exactly what they are — seventeenth in the first division — should have been more emphatic.

"Local derbies are never classics," Dave Merrington, the Southampton manager, said afterwards, "and there's so much pressure from the rivalry between the fans, because they don't play each other that often. It's important to get your nose in front and stay in front."

The home side did just that, pressing forward from the kick-off — Le Tissier firing an early range-finder just over 25 yards — and taking the lead in the twelfth minute when Watson beat Simpson on the byline and crossed to Heaney. His close-range header was scrambled out, but only to Magilton, who found

the net despite Knight's valiant attempt to save. Le Tissier was looking as keen as his round-shouldered shamble ever allows, and it took a clumsy foul from Butters to stop him on the edge of the penalty area a minute later.

Portsmouth looked dangerous only when Walsh had the ball at his feet, but too often he received it at head height. Southampton, by contrast, caused problems whenever they got into wide positions.

Shipperley headed Charlton's cross against the foot of a post, then Le Tissier had a good chance made by Heaney's header from Shipperley's cross five minutes before half-time, but he took too long to size it up and side-footed past a post.

A minute into the second half, Portsmouth gave Le Tissier the freedom of the right wing and he exploited it fully, running half the length of the



Le Tissier: exploited space

field before cutting inside, making a yard of space and hitting a left-foot shot that Knight could push only into the path of Magilton, who scored with ease.

The same player could have had a hat-trick, after Shipperley's through-ball, but he allowed Knight to save while deciding whether to pass to the unmarked Watson. Now, Southampton were contesting possession and defending in numbers, confident that Portsmouth could not hurt them, and hitting back on the break.

Simpson might have reduced arrears after Hall robbed a dreaming Beasant, but Venison blocked bravely, and a failure to get the ball to Walsh on the ground meant that chances for the visitors were few.

Ten minutes from full-time, Le Tissier beat a defender and squared the ball past Knight for Shipperley to side-foot home from close range. Monkou's careless back-pass gave Carter an apparently unmissable chance, but his drive rebounded across goal off the foot of the post. It would not have been much consolation: Southampton were coasting, saving their energies for sterner battles to come.

"I assumed something else had gone wrong," Green said. "When I got back to it, I said to the attendant 'But I told you about that.' After a five-minute break, he returned to his seat and resumed normal service, describing Leeds' two late goals.

## Green on the wrong wavelength

IT WAS the mother of all announcements, the message from hell for Alan Green at the Baseball Ground yesterday (Russell Kempson writes). Green, senior football commentator for Radio 5 Live, was merrily informing his listeners of the progress of Derby County against Leeds United, in his usual enthusiastic tones, when the public address system halted him mid-flow. An appeal was made for the owner of a car to attend to it immediately. "That's my car, that's mine," Green told his audience. A 30-second debate followed before Green, abandoning his headset and microphone to a colleague, set off to tend to the offending vehicle. It had developed a strange screeching noise on his way back from covering the FA Cup third-round tie between Hereford United and Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday and, apparently, was still whining in the Baseball Ground car park when Green left it. Although he had warned an attendant of his bizarre behaviour, the panic button was pressed. "I assumed something else had gone wrong," Green said. "When I got back to it, I said to the attendant 'But I told you about that.' After a five-minute break, he returned to his seat and resumed normal service, describing Leeds' two late goals.

## No place like home for 'Fleet

David Powell joins 6,000 Gravesend and Northfleet supporters on their big FA Cup day trip to Villa Park

but now they are near the bottom of the Beazer Homes premier division. A prediction from Mike? Eight to ten-nil, he thought. Six-nil, I said.

At our first stop, I spoke to Kevin, who was counting heads off and on the coach. Kevin had got the job because he was a 'Fleet regular, and since the coaches were being run by the supporters' association, he was the obvious choice. Apart from a friend, he recognised nobody, but did not resent people who had never seen the team before gategrashing the big day.

Kevin was pleased at the decision to play away. "I want to see Villa Park," he said. Surely, though, the team had no chance away from Stonebridge Road? "No, but as long as we score," he said. "Six-one would be a reason-

able result." The decision was justified, he said, by the fact that 6,000 supporters were travelling, eight times the usual home following.

We arrived just before 1pm for a three o'clock kick-off, one of our number remarking as we went past the impressive frontage to the Holle End that it had more steps leading up to it than there were terraces at Stonebridge Road. I would not recommend such an early arrival for visiting supporters.

There are no lunch establishments in the vicinity, so you may as well go directly into the ground. I had a ticket for block R, where Villa have devised a way for early arrivals to kill time. They can queue for ages at the inadequate, solitary catering outlet between the North Stand and the Doug Ellis Stand.

The only other distraction before finding your seat is the betting shop. I backed Villa to win 6-0 (8-1), but could not resist £1 on David Powell of Gravesend to score the first goal (33-1). The bookmaker, of course, knew better. The shortest final score odds of 7-1 were for a 3-0 Villa victory, which is what happened.

The 'Fleet supporters had always known that they would lose, which was why nothing could spoil their day. Their corner was a sea of red and white balloons, flags, hats and scarves. Conceding a goal after two minutes was just an excuse to sing louder.

The team played better than any of us had expected, and who among us will forget Micky Cotter neatly sidestepping two defenders only for Bosnich to make a brilliant save? We shall remember, too, Villa's generosity of spirit. The sponsors announced Gravesend's Peter Morley as man of the match; and the tannoy played our song, *Here Come The 'Fleet*, though few of us knew of its existence until now.

Back on the coach, we heard Radio 5 Live's interview with Chris Weiler, the Gravesend manager. He was choked with emotion, but he did manage to say that he hoped everybody would be back next week. "You wouldn't fit us all in," he shouted a wag. Who were they playing next week? I wondered? Back at Stonebridge Road, I looked at the "Next Home Match" board, but it was blank. No bad thing. On a day like today, reality was better left for another time.

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## Big-hitting eighth-wicket pair snatch victory for Western Province

# England's one-day rehearsal falls flat

FROM SIMON WILDE, IN CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN (England XI won 105). Western Province beat an England XI by three wickets.

NO ENGLAND cricket tour is apparently complete these days without a humiliating defeat at the hands of youthful upstarts. The team in South Africa duly experienced theirs in front of 15,000 people at Newlands at 10.20pm on Saturday night, at a time when, in different circumstances, they might have been celebrating victory in the Test series.

On paper, losing to a Western Province team short of its five players on duty for the final Test match earlier in the week, Desmond Haynes, its overseas player, and with two more incapacitated by injury, must rank as a performance more crass than being beaten by a team of fringe Test players in Grenada two years ago or by an Australian Academy side — twice — at North Sydney Oval last winter.

Indeed, no amount of reasoning could hide the embarrassment of the England party as a brave if fortuitous eighth-

wicket partnership between Faiek David and Paul Kirsten — brother of Gary — turned what looked like a hopeless position for Western Province into victory within the space of 49 balls that produced 68 runs.

Yet it would be wrong to read too much into the outcome of a match arranged only 48 hours earlier and played on the same pitch on which England slid to an early defeat to surrender the Test series.

England would have dearly liked to win, and were trying hard enough, but they, too, were below strength and their main object in the match was to give the limited-over specialists, who have joined the party for the one-day international series that starts here tomorrow, a meaningful workout.

It is their performances that the England management will have reflected on.

Most concern will centre on the two all-rounders, Craig White and Dermot Reeve. Reeve, like Neil Smith, had not played a serious match since September and the charitable view of his bowling, which posed few threats, was that he was rusty. The same could not be said of White, who came fresh from the A tour of Pakistan.

His batting exhibited this freshness, a sprightly 46 from 57 balls being the most impressive batting of the England innings. In partnership with Fairbrother, who scratched around for 107 balls over the same number of runs as himself, he rallied England from a woeful start that had seen them lose three wickets for 11 runs.

It was White's bowling that maintained the suspicion that he falls short of international class. He began well enough, and claimed an early wicket, but, as the pressure mounted, he was found wanting.

Atherton tested the mettle of all his bowlers by frequently switching them, and it was perhaps significant that it was to White, of whom he is scarcely a wholehearted sup-



A downcast Ramprakash could not believe his luck as Davids caught him off his first ball to continue what has been a luckless tour

**SCOREBOARD**

**ENGLAND XI**

G.P. Thorpe c Gibbs b Pringle 7  
M.A. Atherton c Kirsten b Pringle 4  
M.R. Ramprakash c Davids b Pringle 0  
N.H. Fairbrother c Cormier b Davids 46  
C. White c Davids b Rundle 46  
D.A. Reeve c Kirsten b Rundle 22  
P.A.J. DeFreitas b Pringle 5  
M. Westwood c Cormier b Mitchell 14  
P.A.J. DeFreitas b Pringle 5  
N.M.K. Smith not out 14  
D. Gough run out 0  
Extras (b 5, w 1) 7  
Total (49.5 overs) 105

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-11, 2-11, 3-13, 4-46, 5-128, 6-134, 7-153, 8-185, 9-198.

**BOWLING:** Pringle 10-2-31-1; DeFreitas 10-2-37-1; 36-1; Cormier 4-0-29-0; Mitchell 10-1-37-1; Rundle 10-2-27-2; Davids 6-0-27-1.

**WESTERN PROVINCE**

S.G. Koenig c and b Smith 24  
R. Rundle c Thorpe b DeFreitas 15  
J.D. Adair 21  
J.B. Cormier c Gough b Westwood 24  
M.W. Pringle b Gough 0  
H.H. Gibbs c Atherton b Reeve 5  
F. Davids not out 56  
T.J. Mitchell b White 32  
P. Kirsten not out 22  
Extras (b 7, w 6, nb 3) 16  
Total (7 wickets, 49 overs) 200

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-31, 2-50, 3-91, 4-91, 5-97, 6-119, 7-132.

**BOWLING:** Gough 10-2-31-1; DeFreitas 10-2-37-1; White 10-1-42-1; Smith 6-1-16-1; Reeve 8-1-44-1; Westwood 5-0-23-2.

**Man of the match:** F. Davids.

**Umpires:** N. Bages and R. Brooks.

porter, that he gave the ball for the penultimate over, with Western Province needing 15 to win.

Six balls were sufficient to finish the match, the over yielding 18 runs, including an on-drive for six that brought up a half-century in only 38 balls for Davids, who grew up

playing the game with Sacos, the non-white organisation, and went to the last World Cup as one of two development players in the South Africa squad.

White completed his over grim-faced, which made it all the stranger to hear Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, say later that White had "come through all right".

Smith, in his first game for England, showed himself in a better light, contributing useful late runs with the bat and bowling six tidy overs, albeit before the sudden change in tempo. Unfortunately for him, Watkinson, with whom he is

## Resurgent Richardson leads West Indies to 14-run win

RICHIE RICHARDSON made a timely return to form in Brisbane yesterday, striking an outstanding 61 as West Indies beat Australia by 14 runs in their World Series Cup match at the Gabba.

The West Indies captain, who has struggled for runs so far on the tour, dominated the bowling in a vintage display of strokeplay that helped to lift his side to 231 all out from 49.3 overs.

In reply, Australia were dismissed for 217 with 14 balls remaining as Otis Gibson claimed the wickets of Ian Healy and Craig McDermott with successive balls. Gibson was engulfed by jubilant team-mates after shattering McDermott's stumps to the dismay of a capacity crowd of 21,632. It was West Indies' third win in five days.

Gibson, who claimed two for 38 from 5.4 erratic overs, made an even more telling contribution with the bat, hammering 52 off 40 balls to ensure that West Indies capitalised on Richardson's two-hour innings.

Richardson eventually fell in the fourth over when he drove a low catch to Michael Bevan in the covers to give Stuart Law his only wicket, but his resurgence in scoring his first half-century in seven World Series innings failed to mask an otherwise indisciplined display by the other West Indies top-order batsmen. Gibson rescued the innings by smashing two sixes and four fours before being bowled by Shane Lee.

Ricky Ponting and Stuart Law scored 61 and 62 respectively to lift Australia's hopes.



Muralitharan: no-balled

They added 115 runs for the fourth wicket before Ponting fell to a rash pull shot, lofting a simple catch to Roger Harper at mid-on off Ian Bishop. When Law was brilliantly caught and bowled by Phil Simmons nine overs later, Australia's hopes of victory faded.

"It is never easy to beat Australia, so you enjoy any victory against them," Richardson said. "I am not a person to celebrate until the end, and I don't want anyone to get carried away because we have still a lot of work to do to reach the World Series final."

Sri Lanka have called up Ruwan Kalpage, an all-rounder, to join the squad for the World Series Cup as a replacement for Muttiah Muralitharan, the off-spinner at the centre of a controversy over throwing.

Muralitharan, who had not previously been called in 21 Tests before the tour, was no-balled seven times for throwing by Ross Emerson, the

**TABLE**

	P	W	L	Pts
Australia	5	1	1	8
West Indies	7	3	4	6
Sri Lanka	4	1	3	2

Australian umpire, in the one-day match against West Indies on Friday.

And Panchithewa, the president of the Sri Lanka Board of Control, has faxed the International Cricket Council (ICC) requesting a ruling on Muralitharan's action before the World Cup begins next month.

"We officially asked the ICC last night to appoint an independent panel to evaluate his action," Panchithewa said. "Once the ruling body makes the decision of the independent panel, we have to accept that."

Day Whatmore, the Sri Lanka coach, video-taped Muralitharan's action during their defeat on Friday and this will be submitted by the Sri Lankan management to the ICC.

Kalpage, who has taken 65 wickets and scored 768 runs in 70 one-day internationals, was omitted from the original 16-member tour party, but was included in a provisional squad of 18 for the World Cup in Sri Lanka. Pakistan and India. Muralitharan has also been included in the World Cup squad.

Scoreboard, page 33

## New emphasis on coaching is first step to halting decline

Cape Town is full of disappointment, not to say disenchantment, English cricket supporters, many of them asking the same question. How much longer do they have to wait for a genuine revival in England's cricket fortunes?

To blame the umpiring for the defeat in the fifth Test match last week, and the consequent loss of the Test series to South Africa, is to hide from the truth. England were beaten by a better side. In bowling and fielding, South Africa were a long way ahead, and their batting was more solid than England's.

From the start of the series, I could never quite understand why so many experienced observers saw England as the likelier side. One of them, Jack Bannister, no less, finished by eating his own words on live television, washed down with a bottle of Chardonnay. Maybe they were beguiled by the captain's optimism. On the eve of the tour, Michael Atherton wrote: "The variety of our bowling attack is a major asset for us. We have, I believe, an attack suited to any kind of surface. We have pace bowlers, swing bowlers, nagging accuracy and spin. Importantly, we also have, in Cork, Gough and Illott, excellent experts of reverse swing."

More meaningfully, I am afraid, England are desperately short of

wicket-taking bowlers. Not even Alec Bedser, when he was the heart and marrow of the England attack, carried more of a burden than Dominic Cork does at the moment. Now that Malcolm's confidence is in shreds, Cork alone has the knack of making things happen.

It was just as much England's batting that failed them, though. The pitch at Newlands for the last Test match may not have been a particularly good one, but it was nothing like poor enough to explain England's totals of 153 and 157, even when some undoubtedly



Atherton: fine example



John Woodcock sees little reason to believe that an England revival is imminent after another series defeat

questionable umpiring decisions are taken into account. At Port Elizabeth, in the fourth Test match, they managed only 263 in their first innings on a pitch that gave no advantage to the South Africa bowlers, while in Johannesburg, in the second, a first innings total of 200 was the best England could do in reply to South Africa's 332.

Nothing was more certain when South Africa returned to Test cricket than that what they lacked in experience and flair they would make up for in commitment, and that is just as it has been. I doubt whether they have quite the flexibility to win the forthcoming World Cup, and they may well have a job coping with the spinners when they go to India next winter, but at least they have, in Paul Adams, a spinner of their own now, who is more than just a token.

Their faster attack is as good and disciplined as there is. There is no more explosive bowler in the world than Donald, and Pollock has the whip and suppleness of a young Brian Statham.

One's sympathy goes out to Atherton. It is by no means the

most urbane of teams that he leads, but that, unfortunately, is a reflection of the times. No captain ever set a more resolute example at the crease or was deserving of better support. It is ridiculous, when he has such gifted players as Hick, Smith, Stewart and Thorpe at his side, that, unless he himself makes runs, England collapse. It is absurd, too, that when, in English cricket, there is such a wealth of material, England should be a poor sixth in the Test rankings.

We have now had, successively, the Peter May era, the Ted Dexter era and the Raymond Illingworth era, the last being much the most authoritarian of them. In their contrasting ways, these dedicated men have given their all to make England into a winning side again. More expenditure and more acquired knowledge never went into an England tour than this one, and yet, so far, there is not much to show for it.

Basically, all Illingworth asks is that his sides should make the best of themselves, which, unlike South Africa, they too seldom do. The fact that, of the 35 catches that South

Africa held in the series just finished, 20 were taken at slip or gully and eight others at the wicket, when the ball never moved about a great deal, is an indictment of English batting technique.

In the reorganisation of English cricket that is now under way, coaching must be seen as being of much more importance than marketing — coaching that puts orthodoxy and self-expression on a par. It is time, too, for a switch to more open government and a more constructive contribution from the best of England's former players,



Cork: immense burden

so many of them now surveying the scene from their ivory electronic tower.

If South Africa's victory helps towards the creation of a wider cricketing culture in their incredible country, that will be wonderful. At the moment, it is still very much a white man's game. On Christmas Day, I walked along a beach in Cape Province with such an expansive flat sand that it could have accommodated every imaginable game. There must have been 5,000 people on it, virtually all non-white and a great many of them playing with a ball of some kind. In all that multitude, I spotted only two small black boys playing cricket.

Adams, however, took to Test cricket like a duckling to water. In a kind of way, he lifted the veil off it. He twinkled while he spun and there is all too little of both in the modern game. When he came in last in South Africa's first innings, cheered to the echo but looking vulnerably young, he had faced only 16 balls and scored four runs in first-class cricket; but, when Cork gave him a glare after bowling him a bouncer, Adams responded with a wink. When, eventually, the first African, as distinct from Cape Coloured, wins a Test cap, it will be of even greater sociological significance, but it could never be more disarmingly accomplished.

## Pakistan glide past traditional rivals

FROM MEL WEBB IN SHARJAH

BILL SHANKLY, it was, who said that football was not a matter of life or death — it was much more important than that. Cricket matches between India and Pakistan fall firmly into the same category, at least as far as Indians and Pakistanis are concerned, and it does not matter if the combatants are 15 or 50.

In this case, before they even set foot on the field, most of the players were pretty close to their half-centuries — years, that is, not runs. The latest

incarnation of the India-Pakistan rivalry was the third match of the World Masters Cricket series yesterday, and the Pakistan over-35s did not so much defeat as annihilate their old foes.

The margin was seven wickets with eight balls to spare, but the victory was more comprehensive than that. It left India, strongly-fancied before the tournament, bottom of the four-team table, having lost both of their matches.

The years have treated some of the players here well, others slightly less so, but what has not changed is the enchanting

felicity with which they play their cricket. Mudassar Nazar, all glides and flicks and effortless driving in an undefeated 107; Sadiq Mohammed, with whom he put on 112 for the first wicket, the same quixotic exploiter of anything the slightest bit loose.

Sadiq, at 50, jointly the oldest man in the tournament, was run out one run short of his half-century, and India could be grateful for Nayak's throw from deep square leg, because they did not look likely to get rid of him any other way. Zaheer Abbas and

Salim Yousuf, the other Pakistanis to lose their wickets, were also run out; it was not a good day to be an India bowler.

Pakistan bowled tightly and fielded well enough until they dropped three catches in seven balls near the end of the India innings. They may not get away with such extravagance when they play West Indies on Wednesday.

**SCORES:** Yesterday, India 215-5 (M.A. Atherton 62, S.M. Gavaskar 43), Pakistan 218-3 (Mudassar Nazar 107 not out, Sadiq Mohammed 49). Pakistan won by 7 wickets. Saturday, West Indies 202 (C.L. King 41, S. Path 44), S. Nayak 5-29, India 196-6 (Gavaskar 67, Amarnath 67, A. Vaishnavan 33), West Indies won by 7 runs.

## Lara renews interest in England

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BRIAN LARA may be ready to return to English cricket. Only three months after declining Warwickshire's offer of a three-year contract, the record-breaking West Indies batsman announced in Trinidad that he will listen to further offers.

"I have recharged my batteries and I'm feeling really keen and enthusiastic," he said. "If a really good offer came in from an English county, I'd be delighted to consider it." Lara refused to go on the West Indies tour of Australia in a protest against a

fine imposed on him during the tour of England last year. He returned to first-class cricket for Trinidad and Tobago in the Red Stripe Cup this weekend.

The Pakistan selectors, who met in Karachi yesterday to pick the squad for the forthcoming World Cup, have delayed the decision until Friday, officials said. Zafar Altaf, who chaired the meeting, gave no reason beyond saying that the selectors wanted to watch players who were playing in the Wills Cup domestic tournament.

The delay is understood to be over differences on the possible inclusion of Javed Miandad, the former captain, in the national side.

An opening partnership of 213 between Robert Lawson (113 not out) and Matthew Bell (83) dominated the second day of the Zimbabweans' three-day match against the New Zealand Academy XI in Whangarei yesterday. The Academy XI declared on 213 for one and the Zimbabweans extended their 61-run first-innings lead by reaching 80 for one at the close.



# Aggressive Faldo sets out to rein in leader

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
IN SAN DIEGO

NICK FALDO'S new attitude faced a tough examination as he entered the final round of the Mercedes Championship of Golf on another gloriously sunny day at the luxurious La Costa resort here yesterday.

He has abandoned the countless swing thoughts, which prompted hesitancy, and has instead adopted a policy of pure aggression in an effort to erase frustrations caused by his relatively poor showing in 1995, when he failed to make an impact in the four major championships.

Faldo needed to summon every ounce of aggression he could muster if he was to catch the leader, the 38-year-old American Mark O'Meara, who led him by four strokes and was armed with the knowledge that he got the better of the British player when they came down the closing stretch together in the

The most refreshing aspect of Faldo's new mental approach is that he is now concentrating solely on getting the ball close, rather than the technicalities of his swing. "That's been another difference. I realised there was nothing much wrong with my swing. I just needed to attack the hole more often."

"Let's be honest, I am 38 and getting older. I want to win more major titles, that is always my goal, and I have nothing to lose. I will try to birdie every hole today. I know that's impossible but that's the attitude I must take out there with me if I'm going to stand a chance."

O'Meara, who brought his haul of four titles to ten last year, when he had two victories, had six birdies in a flawless third round of 66, which left him 13 under par on 203. Faldo collected five birdies in a 68 to continue his steady improvement, after opening with 70 and 69.

Faldo's last victory came in the Doral Open in March and he was forced into second place a week later by O'Meara, who wisely refused to believe that his four-shot cushion was sufficient to guarantee an easy ride to victory and a \$180,000 prize.

Scores 33

Honda Classic last March. "That was a great battle and I am expecting another today," Faldo said before completing a punishing spell on the practice range, where he concentrated mainly on his short game.

"Mark is playing exceptionally well," Faldo added. "But I have had a very encouraging week and whatever the outcome, it has been a successful start to my new year."

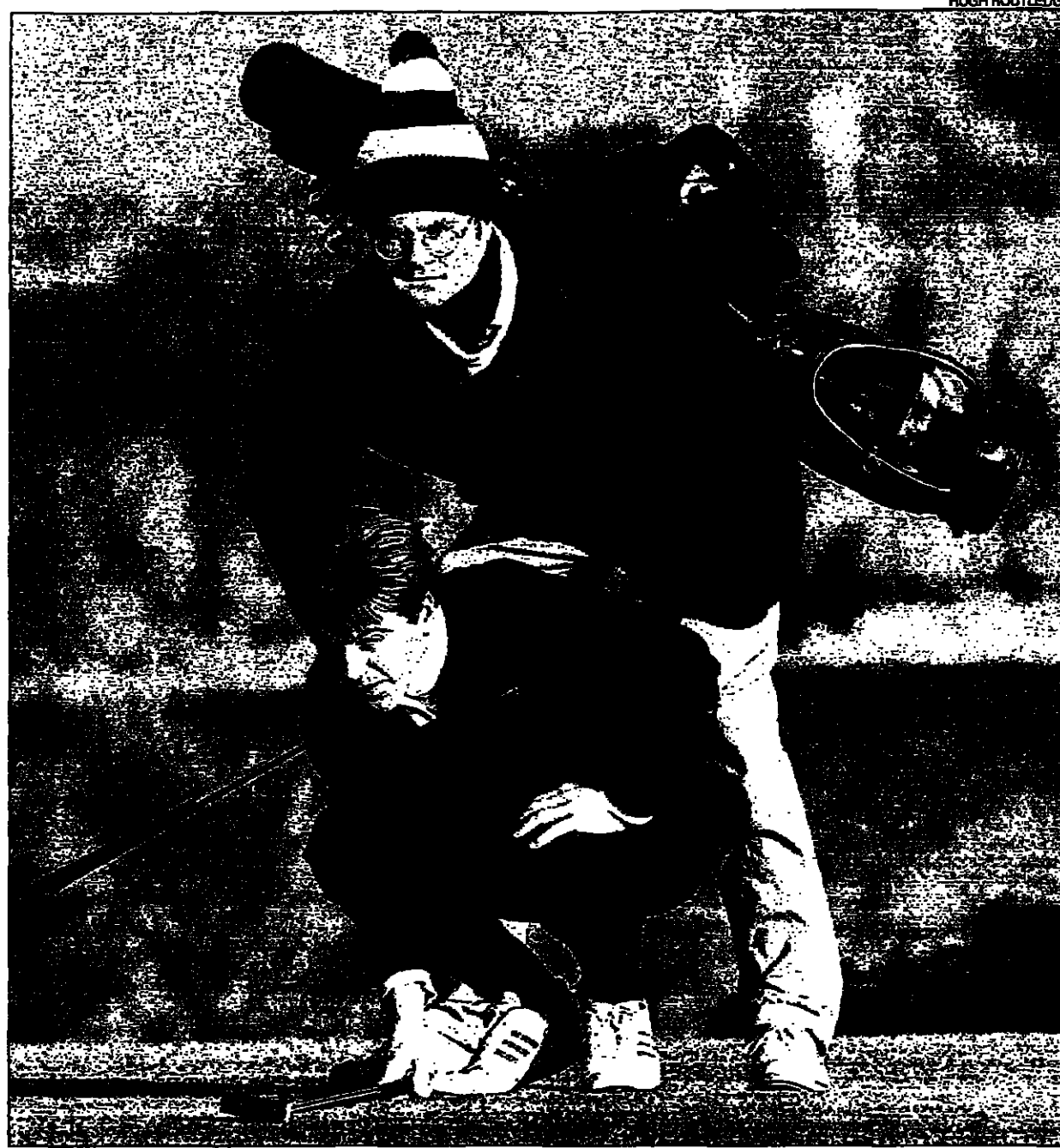
Faldo has pinpointed improving his approach shots, from a nine-iron down, as the key to adding to his five major championships. He spent an hour yesterday on "distance work practice" where he strings a row of baskets on the range at distances between 30 and 70 yards.

"My goal is to improve that part of my game because when I had my best years, in 1990 and 1992, every time I had a short club in my hand I was dancing around the hole," he said. "I have got to recapture that form. I didn't have it when the majors began last year and I struggled."

"When I beat Nick at the Honda, 70 per cent of the gallery was pulling for him even though we were playing in my home state of Florida," he said. "Americans love a winner — and that's exactly what he is. When I look at Nick Faldo, I see one of the toughest competitors out here."

Faldo, who will take a three-week break and return to his Florida base for more practice after this event, was a stroke ahead of the American quartet of Corey Pavin, Jim Gallagher, Scott Hoch and Lee Janzen.

John Daly shot his eighth successive round above par, a one-over 73, that left him on 224. The Open champion said he was unwell, and doubted he would play in the Tucson Open starting on Thursday.



Rotheroe and Hill, his caddie, line up a putt on the 10th green during his victory at Rye yesterday

## Rotheroe displays presidential style

BY JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THERE are not many all-rounders as good as Charlie Rotheroe. Golf, squash and real tennis come easily to this genial 28-year-old. Rotheroe, who works in the City and plays his golf at The Berkshire, is a flashback to another era.

The night before final qualifying for the 1990 Open championship, Rotheroe went Scottish dancing and opened up the next morning with eight birdies in 14 holes. In the 18th after a wonderful six-iron from deep in a crater on the right of the fairway.

Up to then, the two men had done their best to give it away — albeit while moving at an admirable clip that saw them play 20 holes in 195 minutes.

Rotheroe, who had squeaked home against Chris Dale on the first extra hole of his morning semi-final, was three up after four holes, one down after the 12th, one up after the 17th.

Twice over the closing holes Pabari's anxiousness caused him to miss short putts. On the 14th, one of less than three feet was struck too hard and reared away from the hole. That would have put him two up. On the 16th he pulled a more difficult putt, this one of three feet. However, he had the satisfaction of holing a courageous ten-footer on the 18th after a wonderful six-iron from deep in a crater on the right of the fairway.

Anyone who seriously doubted the enduring appeal of this ancient event — and there are plenty from within the ranks of golfers who did

not attend the universities of Oxford and Cambridge — needed only to be at Rye yesterday. On a day when the attractions of home and hearth were considerable, a gallery of at least 300 gathered to exercise their dogs and watch the golf. National championships have been won and lost in front of fewer spectators.

Phil Hill, Rotheroe's caddie, has an unusual claim to fame. A bespectacled mathematician, he was the runner-up to Steve Seman in the 1994 final and then caddied for Andy Woolnough, the winner in 1995. Some of Oxford and Cambridge's greatest brains will be at work trying to discover whether such a treble has been achieved before.

Results, page 33

## Green Bay send the champions packing

THE GREEN Bay Packers ended the reign of the San Francisco 49ers as National Football League champions yesterday, winning 27-17 in a National Football Conference play-off game. Brett Favre, the Green Bay quarterback, completed 21 of 28 passes for 299 yards as his side moved to within one game of the Super Bowl for the first time since 1967. The Packers will face the winners of last night's game between the Dallas Cowboys and the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFC championship game next weekend. It was the first time the 49ers had lost in the play-offs since 1988.

Bam Morris ran for 106 yards and two touchdowns, and Norm Johnson kicked four field goals to lead Pittsburgh Steelers to a 40-21 victory over Buffalo Bills in an American Football Conference play-off game. The Steelers will now play the winner of last night's match between Indianapolis and Kansas City.

## World record for Han

SWIMMING: Han Xue, a Chinese teenager, struggled off the disappointment of an earlier disqualification to set a world record of 31.15sec in the women's 50 metres breaststroke at the World Cup short-course meeting in Hong Kong yesterday. Xue, 14, making only her second international appearance, was disqualified in the 100 metres freestyle heat for wobbling on the blocks, but bounced back to win the breaststroke final. Han, based in Peking, shaved 0.08sec from the previous best of 31.19sec and was followed home by Jamie King, of Great Britain.

## Faizy prevails

SQUASH: Tracey Shenton, from Staffordshire, maintained a lone domestic presence among the Commercial Union British Junior Open titles settled at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield over the weekend by defeating Janie Thacker, of Yorkshire, 5-9, 9-5, 10-8, 5-9, 9-3 in a 63-minute under-19 final. The most prestigious junior trophy in the game, the Drysdale Cup, however, went overseas when Ahmed Faizy, of Egypt, defeated Marcus Cowie, from Norfolk, 9-3, 7-9, 4-9, 9-3, 9-4 in the boys' under-19 final.

## Cardiff consolidate lead

ICE HOCKEY: Cardiff Devils strengthened their position at the head of the premier division by defeating Fife Flyers 9-1, with Doug McEwen, Steve Moria and Randy Smith each scoring twice, while the two teams immediately below them, Nottingham Panthers and Sheffield Steelers, had to settle for a share of the spoils in a 3-3 draw. Chris Kelland's 45th-minute goal, which gave Sheffield a 3-2 lead, looked likely to be the winner but Garth Premack scored just 39sec remaining to salvage a point for the home team.

## Painful exit for Rosset

TENNIS: The Hopman Cup team championship ended with Marc Rosset, right, in hospital and Martina Hingis in tears as Croatia celebrated a bizarre victory. Rosset injured his hand punching a board after the Swiss team wasted four championship points in the final set of the decisive mixed doubles. He played two more points before the pain forced him to forfeit.



## Radcliffe storms home

ATHLETICS: Paula Radcliffe added to her growing reputation by winning the Coca-Cola international cross-country race in Mullusk on Saturday. The Bedford runner, who last week took the Durham international title, covered the 4.8-kilometre course in 16min 02sec in a howling gale. She pulled away from Rose Cheruyot, of Kenya, 800 metres from home after the pair had left the rest of the field trailing.

## Johnson foiled

FENCING: Sam Johnson, 18, from the Sussex House club in London, took third place for Great Britain in the Budapest round of the junior (under-20) World Cup event at the weekend, losing 15-11 to Lorenzo Mammi, of Italy, the eventual winner. Paul Walsh, the British senior champion, finished thirteenth, but moved up to fifth in the world under-20 rankings.

### SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (°F/°C)	Last snow
AUSTRIA					
Kitzbühel	20 70	fair heavy	art	fine	-1 31/12
Lach	50 60	good	varied	fair	cloud 1 3/1
Obergurgl	80 110	good	varied	good	cloud 0 3/1
					(Very good skiing on most pistes; no queues)
FRANCE					
Flaine	35 145	good	varied	good	snow 0 7/1
					(Fresh snow at all levels though wet low down)
Tignes	90 135	good	powder	good	snow -2 7/1
					(Plenty of fresh snow at all altitudes)
ITALY					
Cervinia	40 250	good	powder	good	cloud -1 7/1
					(Excellent snow but flat light; sunshine expected)
SWITZERLAND					
Arosa	45 60	good	fair	fair	snow 0 7/1
					(Pistes freshened with new snow)
Villars	20 100	fair	varied	fair	cloud 2 7/1
					(Plenty of good skiing on pistes; fresh snow)
Wengen	45 65	good	heavy	fair	cloud 3 7/1
					(New snow covering up the worn patches)

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

THE TIMES  
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Comprehensive outlook in the skiing areas for the week ahead  
SKI CLUBS  
Scottish ski resorts  
**0891 200 627**

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Most duplicate players use "negative" doubles. That is to say, when their partner opens with one of a suit and the opponents intervene in another suit, a double is not penalty but shows the ability to compete further. The strength of the doubler's hand is unlimited, but he will not have a good suit of his own.

One consequence of this is that, if a player does have a penalty double, the only way that a partnership can catch the opposition is for the player over the bidder to pass and hope that his partner can re-open the bidding with a take-out double. Here is an example from the BBL Premier League.

Dealer North	North-South vulnerable	IMPs
♠ 9874 ♥ 86 ♦ Q3 ♣ 10875 ♠ AKQ2 ♥ QJ54 ♦ K982 ♣ A	♠ 1065 ♥ KJ ♦ A85 ♣ KQ432 ♠ 3 ♥ A109732 ♦ J1074 ♣ 86	

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1C Double	2H All pass

Contract: Two Hearts doubled, by South. Lead: Ace of Clubs

This was the auction at two tables. West's Pass of South's weak jump overall was the only way that he could arrange to play in Two Hearts Doubled. If you play this method, it is obligatory for the opener to bid again if it is passed back to him and he is short in the suit bid on his left. Nevertheless, West's first-round Pass looks alarming to me — what if East had been dealt an extra heart and one less diamond? Then, he would also pass Two Hearts and East-West would look foolish, with Six Spades on their way.

Against Senior and myself, South bid only One Heart. After Senior bid One Spade and heard support from me, he made several slam tries. However, I was too nervous of my overall weakness and poor trumps and Senior was worried about heart losers, so we eventually subsided in Five Spades. Not as good as getting 800 out of Two Hearts doubled (or even 500 from One Heart doubled).

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ATAXY  
a. The Macedonian cavalry  
b. Awkwardness  
c. Excused taxation

SAPID  
a. The wild pea  
b. Vapid  
c. Lively

AILUROPHILE  
a. A cat-lover  
b. Collector of bear-mats  
c. Liking garlic  
RUDERAL  
a. Thriving in rubbish  
b. Indecent  
c. To do with steering

Answers on page 35

## KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

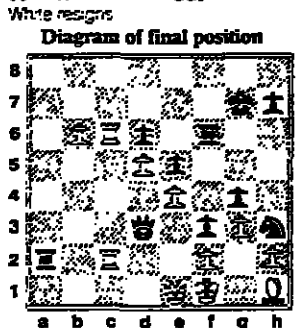
### Triple tie

The Hastings Premier tournament has ended in a triple tie for first prize between Stuart Conquest, the British grandmaster, Bogdan Lalic, the former Yugoslav grandmaster, and grandmaster Alexander Khalifman, who now represents Germany. In the last round, all games were drawn, apart from the clash between Matthew Sadler, the British champion, and Conquest. The latter took his life in his hands, inviting a complex position in which both players became extremely short of time. Conquest's boldness was rewarded with a career-best final position.

White: Matthew Sadler  
Black: Stuart Conquest  
Hastings Premier, January 1996

Keres Defence

1 d4	e6
2 c4	Bb4+
3 Bc2	a6
4 Nf3	a5
5 g3	Nc6
6 Bg2	e5
7 c5	Bc2+
8 Nxd2	Nd7
9 Nc3	N5
10 b4	Nb6
12 0-0	0-0
13 Rc1	b6
14 Nb5	Ba6
15 Qc2	Rf7



Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

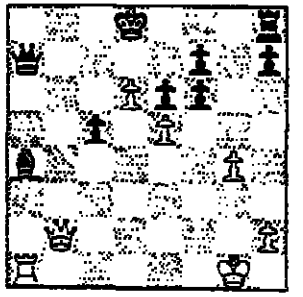
### Hastings Centenary Tournament

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 Conquest	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	5½
2 Lalic	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	5½
3 Khalifman	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	5½
4 Vermeulen	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
5 Miles	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
6 Speelman	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	4½
7 Sadler	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	4½
8 Axilick	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
9 Hodgson	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	3
10 Luther	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2½

### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is a variation from the game Plaskett — Mestel, Hastings Premier, 1986. James Plaskett, a former British champion, is a very dangerous attacking player and this position is an excellent example. White to play and win.



Solution on page 35















Ruth Gledhill on a dedicated band of would-be Olympic athletes who train in tailcoats or spangled gowns

# Serious, strenuous and strictly ballroom

Thousands of people go ballroom dancing in Great Britain's 8,000 dance schools and halls each week. For most, it is primarily a way to meet new people and enjoy a night out with music to move to.

However, for a dedicated minority, ballroom dancing is not a social activity. It is a sport; and to this sport they bring the fierce competitive spirit, intensive training routines and obsessive enthusiasm more commonly associated in the public mind with running, rugby, swimming or football.

Many still regard competitive ballroom dancing, or "dance sport" as its practitioners call it, as something of a joke. Some would deny watching the BBC's *Come Dancing* series. However, that public perception could be about to change. To the relief of some, the BBC has dropped *Come Dancing*, which many dancers believe failed to portray a normal competition accurately. Also, after 14 years of intensive lobbying, ballroom has been granted provisional recognition as a sport by the International Olympic Committee. It will come up again for full recognition in two years and, according to Rita Thomas, of the International Dance Sport Federation, this is expected to be given.

The world's top dancers can expect to compete at the millennial Olympics in Sydney, Australia, which should boost the sport's popularity worldwide — and, if Britain's dancers maintain their present standards, they should claim many of the medals.

"For anyone starting out, be prepared to work hard and keep fit," Thomas said. "The top couples do a lot of physical training, as well as dancing, to build up their stamina, but there are rewards. Our couples are invited abroad to compete. They make friends all over the world."

The sport is rare in demanding dependency between partners. Each must sparkle individually to win, but also relies on the other for a good performance. The poise, elegance and control required mean that muscles are used in a way not seen in any other sport.

In Britain, sponsorship is harder to find than in almost any other developed country, because of the sport's image.



Professional poise: Timothy Howson and Joanne Bolton

However, although dance sport can cost thousands of pounds for amateur couples at the top, for beginners, it is comparatively cheap, with group lessons in many schools costing as little as £5 an hour.

Lovita Salisbury, 16, and Patrick Hooper, 30, have just begun competing in the beginners' ranks. They were put in touch by Gloria Sheaves, of Bristol, their teacher. Instead of the lavish, widely expensive tails and ballroom dresses worn in the higher grades, they wear "lounge clothes" on the floor. Their biggest competition to date was Champions of Tomorrow at Blackpool at the weekend, where they took on dozens of other young hopefuls in the under-35 beginners league. They have lessons each week with John Blackburn, their coach, in Bristol, and compete at weekends.

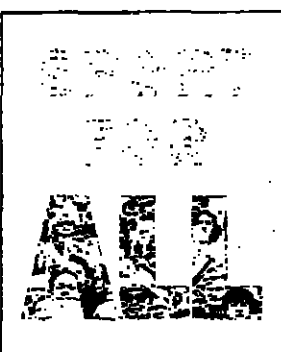
To cater for beginners and novices, the next grade up, many venues now hold Friday evening "lounge clothes" competitions, which are cheap to enter. Yet for those truly bitten

by the bug, there is no limit to how much time and money can be spent in training and travelling to competitions worldwide.

Joanne Bolton, 23, has danced for 20 years; Timothy Howson, her partner, for 19 years. Until a few weeks ago, when they turned professional, they were Britain's top amateur couple. Now, they are in training for their first big professional competition, the Star Ball at the Grosvenor in London on Wednesday.

Like most of Britain's top couples, Bolton and Howson were dancing almost as soon as they could walk. Bolton's parents channelled her childish energy by taking her to their dance classes, where she was an instant hit. She began competing at six, dancing with another girl.

"There weren't many boys who wanted to do it," she said. At 14, she found a boy partner and, within two months, they won the international open youth championship, going on



## DANCE FACTS

Competitions cater for all ages, from juveniles to over-50s. Those starting in mid-life can enter the over-35 "senior" competitions. It is never too late to learn, although would-be professionals should begin as young as possible. Beginners interested in social dancing only should check their local library or newspaper for details of the nearest school. For competitive dancing or any other information, contact the British Council of Ballroom Dancing on 0181-545 0085.

to win the British open youth amateur modern. Howson and Bolton got to know each other at competitions. "We decided to become partners 4½ years ago," Bolton said. "It was a risk because Tim was several inches taller than me, and there were adjustments to make."

They rapidly danced their way to the top, winning the British open amateur title three years in a row and defeating 500 couples from all over the world, including an influx of talent from the former Soviet Union, where ballroom dancing has become hugely fashionable. They have also won the international championship at the Albert Hall for three years, including last October, prompting their decision to mark the new year by turning professional.

Their training schedule is hectic. Besides working out regularly in a gym at their home in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, they dance during the week and all weekend. Their main coach is Ernie Chatt, a top judge and dance

teacher who runs the Moonglow studio in Watford, Hertfordshire, but they also take lessons with many others, including Bill and Bobbie Irvine, former world ballroom and Latin champions. Richard and Janet Gleave, eight-times undefeated world ballroom champions, and Michael and Vicky Barr, five-times world ballroom champions. "We take the information we have learnt from them, go back to our coach and spend hours analysing it," Bolton said. She is fortunate to have a

sponsor, Chris Anne, a dancewear company that supplies her with 15 dresses a year, complete with rhinestones and box feathers, then sells them on at between £1,600 and £1,900 each. Because Bolton is petite, many go to Japan, where, as in Germany, dance sport is pursued passionately by members of all social classes.

Yet even with sponsorship, life as an amateur champion is not cheap. Lessons cost £35 an hour and, until Bolton and Howson turned professional,

they were strictly forbidden to earn money from teaching or giving demonstrations.

Top amateur dancers elsewhere in the world are not only allowed to earn money but also are treated as stars. Yet here, where there has long been disagreement over whether ballroom is a sport or an art, it is all too often not taken seriously, according to Howson, who won his first significant championship at 11.

"I was given a very difficult time at school for doing ball-

room dancing instead of playing football," he said. "But when I won that first trophy, I took it to school and everyone thought it was fantastic. It was enormous, like the FA Cup."

He can understand why others take the mickey out of dancers, but he has no regrets. "Just think how many girls go to dancing classes," he said. "Hundreds, and they are usually quite good-looking. For all those guys spending all that money in pubs and wondering where all the girls are, they are usually out dancing."



Amateur enthusiasm: Lovita Salisbury, 16, and Patrick Hooper, 30, with John Blackburn, their dance coach

## Court of Appeal

### Mutuality requirement essential

**Morris and Others v Agrichemicals Ltd and Others**

Before Lord Justice Rose, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Millett

[Judgment December 20]

The mandatory set-off provided for in the liquidation of a company under rule 4.90 of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1025) could not be triggered by an agreement for set-off where the requirement of mutuality was absent.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing appeals by:

(i) Agrichemicals Ltd, Bishopsgate Estates, Eurofert Ltd, Solai Holdings Ltd, Solai Services Ltd, Tradeworth Ltd, the principal debtors, and Société Générale de Gestion et Services SA, the depositor; and

(ii) Rayners Enterprises Inc, the principal debtor, and Mohamed Jassa, the depositor, against the decision of Mr Justice Rafter in the Chancery Division on March 9, 1994 that Christopher Morris, John Richards, Stephen Akers and Nicholas Lyle, the liquidators of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA, were not liable to give credit for the amount of depositors' deposits before claiming to recover the amount of the indebtedness of the principal debtors.

Mr Christopher Carr, QC and Mr Michael Todd for the first appellants; Mr John McDonnell, QC, for the second appellants; Mr Robin Dicker for the liquidators.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appeals had arisen in two test cases in which the liquidators of the bank had sought directions. In a large number of cases the bank had lent money to a customer, the principal debtor. A third party, the depositor, had deposited money with the bank and purported to charge the deposit to the bank with repayment of the loan. The charge was by way of non-recourse collateral security; the bank did not obtain a personal covenant or guarantee of repayment from the depositor.

Before the loan was repaid the bank went into liquidation. The liquidators had sought directions whether they should attempt to recover the whole of the outstanding loan from the principal debtor and leave the depositor to prove in the liquidation of the bank for the amount of the deposit after the

loan had been fully repaid; or whether they should set off the amount of the outstanding loan against the deposit and claim from the principal debtor only so much of the loan as exceeded the amount of the deposit.

Mr Justice Rafter had held that the liquidators were not required to give credit for the amount of the deposit before claiming to recover the amount of the indebtedness of the principal debtor.

The letters of lien/charge in the two cases were in similar terms. Neither contained any express guarantee on the part of the depositor or any personal covenant, whether as surety or principal debtor, to repay the indebtedness of the principal debtor.

In the respect the present case was to be distinguished from *MS Fashions Ltd v Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA* (1993) Ch 425 which concerned loans made by the bank to three different companies secured by letters of lien/charge over money deposited with the bank by a depositor and by the personal guarantee by the depositor.

Lord Justice Hoffmann, sitting as first instance, had held that the effect of the automatic operation of set-off in bankruptcy was to extinguish the liability of the depositor under his guarantee that that amounted to payment of the guaranteed debt, and that accordingly it extinguished the liability of the principal debtor to the bank.

The Court of Appeal upheld the decision that the effect of the security documentation, which constituted the depositor a principal debtor, was to dispense with the need for a prior demand.

The question in the present case was whether the absence of any personal obligation on the part of the depositor to pay the principal debt was a material distinction which compelled a different result. If it was, then, it was submitted, the result was a paradox: an insolvent creditor was in a better position if he had not obtained a personal guarantee than if he had. The letters of lien/charge purported:

(i) to create in favour of the bank a lien or charge on the balances maintained by the depositor with the bank for all the outstanding liabilities of the principal debtor to the bank;

(ii) to give the bank power to withdraw any of the sums standing to the credit of the depositor with the bank and utilise them in

the reduction or discharge of the liabilities of the principal debtor without prior reference to the depositor;

(iii) to prohibit the depositor from "encumbering, assigning or dealing with" the deposits in any way; and

(iv) to allow the bank to refuse to release the deposit to the depositor unless or until the entire outstanding liability of the principal debtor had been repaid in full and the bank was under no obligation to provide or make available banking facilities to the principal debtor.

The essential question was whether, in the absence of a personal guarantee or other obligation on his part to pay the amount of the principal debt, there was at the date of the winding up order any sum due from the depositor to the bank within the meaning of rule 4.90 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.

In the court's judgment the problem in the present case was susceptible of a simple solution. The principal debtors were indebted to the bank. Their controlling shareholders deposited money with the bank. If the case had stopped there, there could have been no question of set-off in the bank's insolvency. The bank could not have set off the debts which it owed to the depositors against the debts which their companies owed to the bank. The requirement of mutuality would have been absent.

Even if all parties had agreed that the bank should set off the amounts in question, it could not have done so after the bankruptcy. In the absence of the necessary mutuality, the set-off would have contravened the statutory scheme of distribution in insolvency. Once insolvency supervened, rule 4.90 required set-off in the situations in which it was applicable and public policy forbade it where it was not.

By the letters of lien/charge the depositors had agreed with the bank that it could apply the amounts standing to the credit of their deposit accounts in discharge or reduction of the indebtedness of the principal debtors.

That was an express agreement that the bank could set off the debts due to the depositors against the debts due from the principal debtors, and as such it was ineffective once the bank was in liquidation.

The principal debtors had been unable to persuade the court that

the mandatory set-off under rule 4.90 was triggered by an agreement for set-off where the requirement of mutuality was absent, or that the fact that the agreements for set-off were comprised in charge-backs supplied the missing element of mutuality.

The court recognised that that conclusion gave rise to the paradox already mentioned, unless the decision in *MS Fashions* was restricted to its own facts, the depositor in that case being treated as a principal debtor and not a surety.

But the conclusion was inevitable if serious prejudice to the general body of creditors was to be avoided. The conclusion was not unjust. It was not the function of insolvency set-off to prefer a creditor who was not indebted to the insolvent estate, or whose liability was secondary only and capable of being discharged by the party primarily liable. There was no injustice in requiring a creditor against whom no claim was made to prove for the debt which was due to him.

If it was thought unacceptable that the outcome should depend on whether collateral security was given to secure the debt of the principal debtor or a secondary obligation of the surety, then it was *MS Fashions* which required reconsideration.

Solicitors: Charles Russell, Gargat Gardi & Co; Lovell White Durrant.

## Pharmacy services

**Regina v Humberstone Family Health Services Authority and Another, Ex parte Moore and Others**

The provision by general practitioners of pharmaceutical services was a relevant consideration for a family health services authority to take into account under regulation 4(4) of the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations (SI 1992 No 662) when considering the adequacy of provision in the neighbourhood, by listed pharmacists outside that neighbourhood and within the authority's catchment area.

Mr Justice Potts so held in the Queen's Bench Division on December 18 when granting judicial review to Dr J. R. Moore, Dr J. D. Marsden and Dr S. D. Robertson, who practised as gen-

eral practitioners in Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Humberstone, of the decision of the first respondent, Humberstone Family Health Services Authority, to grant the second respondents, Mr J. N. Crump and Mr P. W. Wain, preliminary consent to establish a pharmacy and to provide pharmaceutical services in Holme.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the authority had applied the wrong test by concluding that because no pharmaceutical services were provided in Holme by persons on the pharmaceutical list, the application by the pharmacists had to be approved.

Regulation 4(4) required the authority to consider not only whether there were any dispensing pharmacies in Holme, but also the adequacy of provision by listed pharmacists outside that locality.

The first was that made by the Minister of State at the Treasury on November 23, 1978, when he moved the second reading of the Bill which became the *Banking Act 1979*, and the second that made by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury on November 28, 1986 when he moved the second reading of the Bill which became the *Banking Act 1987*.

The main action concerned the insolvency of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA, the second plaintiff, with the consequential loss of substantial sums of money by thousands of depositors; the first plaintiff being among that number.

the integrity of the recorder without the smallest foundation or the slightest evidence.

Letters written by Mr Douglas to the Lord Chancellor, the recorder, his own solicitor and the court revealed paranoid thinking and contained threats to do grievous bodily harm to the recorder.

In the summer, Mr Douglas apparently had accepted proper advice that the appeal should not be continued by those allegations of corruption and bias. At a late stage he changed his instructions and insisted that they should

be made. Mr Lyons acted on those instructions. While the court appreciated the difficult situation in which Mr Lyons had found himself, he had made a grave error of judgment in complying with his client's instructions.

The duty of counsel to put his client's case could not extend to advancing the client's belief, unsubstantiated by any evidence, that the judge was corrupt or biased. His duty in such circumstances was either to decline to comply with the instructions or to withdraw from the case.

Solicitors: Peter M. Riss, Havant; Michael Daltons, Hayling Island.

## Admissibility of parliamentary material in considering purpose of Act

**Three Rivers District Council and Others v Governor and Company of the Bank of England**

Before Mr Justice Clarke

[Judgment November 27]

Where the court was considering the purpose or object of a statute for some reason other than the construction of a particular domestic statutory provision, the strict criteria for admissibility of parliamentary materials laid down in *Pepper v Hart* (1993) AC 593 and *Mellish v BMI* (No 3) Ltd (1995) STC 964 did not apply.

Mr Justice Clarke so held in the Queen's Bench Division when granting the application of Three Rivers District Council; the first plaintiff, for leave to refer to two speeches made by ministers in Parliament.

The first was that made by the Minister of State at the Treasury on November 23, 1978, when he moved the second reading of the Bill which became the *Banking Act 1979*, and the second that made by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury on November 28, 1986 when he moved the second reading of the Bill which became the *Banking Act 1987*.

The main action concerned the insolvency of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA, the second plaintiff, with the consequential loss of substantial sums of money by thousands of depositors; the first plaintiff being among that number.

The plaintiffs contended that the Bank of England, the defendant, had acted deliberately and knowingly in breach of its obligations imposed by Council Directive 77/780/EEC of December 12, 1977 (OJ 1977 L320/30) and the Banking Act 1979 and 1987, both in licensing BCCI to carry on business in the UK and in failing thereafter to revoke that licence and the subsequent authorisation under the 1987 Act.

Sir Patrick Neill, QC, Mr David Vaughan, QC, Mr Dominic Dowling and Mr Robin Dicker for the plaintiffs; Mr Nicholas Studden, QC, Mr Paul Lasok, QC, Mr Mark Phillips, Mr Benjamin Thakur and Mr Khadri Thompson for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE CLARKE said that the plaintiffs intended to refer to the two speeches in support of an argument that the defendant's contention that the Banking Acts 1979 and 1987 were not intended by Parliament to impose on the defendant an obligation to protect depositors from negligence, impropriety, dishonesty and so on on the part of credit institutions was wrong and that that was the plain intention of Parliament when it passed those Acts.

The defendant submitted that the plaintiffs were not entitled to rely upon the speeches in accordance with the criteria laid down in *Pepper v Hart* and *Mellish v BMI* (No 3) Ltd.

His Lordship said that in those cases the House of Lords was not considering the case where the court might be considering the purpose or object of a statute for some reason other than the construction of a particular statutory provision, and that moreover the House was considering a purely domestic statute.

In his Lordship's judgment, it did not necessarily follow that the principle applied so narrowly to a case where the purpose of the legislation was to introduce into English law the provisions of an international convention or of a European directive, even where the question was one of construction.

His Lordship added that it was relevant to consider the object and purpose of the Banking Acts 1979 and 1987 in the instant case and that the purpose and objects of those statutes were relevant to the issues between the parties arising out of the 1977 Directive that where the court was seeking to construe a statute purposively and consistently with any relevant European materials, including directives, it was of particular importance to ascertain the true purpose of the statute.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; Freshfields.

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## Court of Appeal

### Barrister exceeded his duty

**Thatcher v Douglas and Another**

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hutton and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment December 19]

The duty of a barrister to present his client's case before the Court of Appeal could not extend to advancing the client's assertion, unsubstantiated by any evidence, that the trial judge was corrupt or biased. A barrister's duty in such circumstances was either to decline to comply with the instructions or to withdraw from the case.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Mr James K. Douglas and his wife, Mrs Diane Douglas, from the judgment of Mr Recorder Donne, QC, at Portsmouth County Court on April 19, 1993, that the plaintiff, Mr R. G. Thatcher, who had died since the hearing, had an enforceable right to use a concrete slipway leading to tidal mudflats and situated in the area of the parties' common boundary.

Mr Graham Lyons for the defendants; Mr T. A. S. Pearson for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that there was a most regrettable feature about the case, which was otherwise unremarkable, which in the court's experience made it unique.

At a late stage the appeal had been converted into an attack on



## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL) Play-offs:  
AFC: Pittsburgh 40 Buffalo 21. NFC: Green Bay 27 San Francisco 17.

## ATHLETICS

NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA: Birmingham Games: Men: 60m: K Williams (Cardiff) 6.75secs. 100m: T West (Morpeth) 13.91secs. 200m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 30.19secs. 400m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 1:00.00. 800m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 2:00.00. 1500m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 4:00.00. 5000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 16:00.00. 10000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 32:00.00. 20000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 64:00.00. 40000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 128:00.00. 80000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 256:00.00. 160000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 512:00.00. 320000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 1024:00.00. 640000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 2048:00.00. 1280000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 4096:00.00. 2560000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 8192:00.00. 5120000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 16384:00.00. 10240000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 32768:00.00. 20480000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 65536:00.00. 40960000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 131072:00.00. 81920000m: J. H. Williams (Cardiff) 262144:00.00. 163840000m: J. H. 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**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

# Hea



## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

## TODAY

Interim: Calluna, Ellis & Everard, Merchants Trust (Q3), Universal Salvage, Westport Group and Williamson Tea Holdings. Final: A G Bar, Inspirations and Treas. Economic statistics: Consumer credit for November, full monetary statistics which include bank and building society balance sheets, retail M4 and lending; personnel borrowing; public sector funding; money market, sterling commercial paper and medium-term note issue, interest and exchange rates for December.

## TOMORROW

Interim: Bepac, Tomorrows Leisure, Universal Salvage and VHE Holdings. Final: French. Economic statistics: Advance energy statistics for November.

## WEDNESDAY

Interim: Apts Healthcare, Sidney C Bakes, Dixons Group, Ewart, First Spanish IT, Fleming International, High Income, Ryland Group and Savills. Final: Jersey Electricity and M&W. Economic statistics: Housing starts and completions for November, balance of visible trade for October, cyclical indicators for December.

## THURSDAY

Interim: Carpetright, Cassidy Brothers, Coral Products, GGT Group, Jones Stroud Holdings, Jura Hotel, Matthew Clark and PBT. Final: Demmans Electrical, Lornho, Robert H Lowe and RCO Holdings. Economic statistics: Labour market trends, index of production for November.

## FRIDAY

Interim: None scheduled. Final: Dawson Holdings. Economic statistics: CBI survey of distributive trades for December.

## SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy British Land, Weir; Sell RMC. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Pentland, Courtauld Textiles; Sell Carpetright. Independent on Sunday: Buy Aspen Communications, Newman Tonks; Avoid British Gas. The Observer: Buy BP, Bass, BA. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Chubb, Aramscan; Avoid Electronic Data Processing.

## COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS

## Healthy start expected at Dixons

**DIXONS GROUP:** One of this week's highlights will be Wednesday's interim figures and an all-important trading statement from the electrical goods retailer that owns the Dixons, Currys and PC World chains.

First-half profits will show a healthy advance, but attention will focus on what Sir Stanley Kalms, Dixons' chairman who was knighted in the New Year Honour's List, will say about trading in the key Christmas and new year sales period.

UBS expects the group, which recently regained its place in the FT-SE 100 index, to turn in interim pre-tax profits of £40 million in the six months to the October 31, compared with £26.6 million previously. Market forecasts range from £35 million to £44 million. An improved interim dividend of 2.1p (1.8p) is predicted.

The group is expected to enjoy healthy like-for-like sales growth at a time when other retailers struggle to sell lap-top computers and personal hi-fi against fierce competition and depressed consumer spending. Its main rival, Comet, owned by Kingfisher, has been struggling in this climate and a growing number of regional electricity companies have been pulling out of electrical retailing.

Dixons, which has concentrated on cutting costs and boosting profits by moving many stores out of town, told analysts at a presentation in November that it expected the PC World personal computer chain would make sales of £500 million in two to three years.

Attention will also focus on what the company has to say about extended warranties following renewed criticism about the value that these lucrative, but often over-priced, policies offer to customers.

**LONRHO:** The diversified international conglomerate, whose in-



Attention will focus on Dixons and Sir Stanley Kalms's view of extended warranties

terests span mining, hotels and agriculture, should announce a healthy full-year profits advance on Thursday. However, analysts' attention will focus on current trading and expectations that the group will announce a possible disentangling of its web of subsidiaries and a demerger of its mining activities.

A spin-off has been mooted since Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's founder, was ousted last March and Dieter Bock, the new man at the helm, set out to streamline Lonrho's businesses.

At the interim stage, the company said it might float off parts of the company with the mining or hotel interests — which include

the Metropole hotels in Britain and the Princess chain in the US — seen as favourites for a possible spin-off.

Charles Pick, at Panmure Gordon, is looking for FR33 pre-tax profits to advance to £147 million (£112 million), though clean profits, excluding an anticipated £10 million debit on textiles, should

rise to £157 million (£108 million). Market forecasts range from £145 million to £150 million. A dividend of 5.75p (4.75p) is predicted.

The recent rise in the gold price should boost Ghana's Ashanti Goldfields, in which Lonrho has a 41 per cent stake. It has been in mining that Dieter Bock has most made his mark in the past year, actively expanding Lonrho's South African coal-mining operations and merging the group's platinum interests with those of Genor to create the world's biggest platinum producer.

**ELLIS & EVERARD:** Analysts predict a rise in first-half profits at Ellis & Everard, the chemicals distributor, in spite of falling prices and destocking that has affected the industry. UBS expects interim pre-tax profits, due today, to climb to £12.3 million (£10.5 million), with a dividend of 3p (2.6p) predicted. Market forecasts range from £12 million to £12.5 million. Sales were strong in the first five months of the year, after healthy increases in Europe and America.

**CARPETRIGHT:** In spite of the grim state of the housing market, Carpetright, the carpet retailer headed by Sir Phil Harris, is expected to have held up well in the difficult trading conditions. Interim pre-tax profits, due on Wednesday, are expected to climb to £10 million (£8 million), according to UBS, with a dividend of 3p (3.9p) predicted.

**MATTHEW CLARK:** The fast-growing drinks group, which owns Gaymer cider and recently acquired Taunton Cider after a £271 million takeover bid, is expected to lift first-half pre-tax profits to £16.8 million (£7.2 million) when it reports on Thursday. An interim dividend of 9p (8p) is predicted. Attention will focus on current trading and the integration of Taunton.

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

## Spotlight on festive sales

THE most interesting British economic statistics come at the end of this week with November industrial production figures and the latest Confederation of British Industry distributive trades survey. These should give the first hard evidence of the strength — or otherwise — of retail sales in the crucial Christmas period.

The industrial production figures on Thursday are not expected to sparkle, given recent survey evidence. The most recent CBI survey showed a sharp drop in output intentions and the purchasing managers' index, published a week ago, showed that manufacturing activity appeared to expand only marginally in December after its slight contraction in November.

The consensus forecast compiled by MMS International is for manufacturing output to rise by a marginal 0.1 per cent after its gain of 0.2 per cent in October. Industrial production is forecast to bounce back with a gain of 0.5 per cent after October's 0.9 per cent fall, which was largely weather-related.

Other British statistics published this week include today's final money data from the Bank of England for November, which includes an estimate for consumer credit. This has been growing strongly and November is expected to have seen another healthy increase.

On Wednesday, October figures for global visible trade are published. The median forecast from MMS International is for a deficit of £1.4 billion after a shortfall of £972 million in September.

One of the most contentious statistical areas is the US, where the shutdown of Government because of the budget impasse between the Administration and Congress means that hardly any numbers have been published. The only statistics expected are produced by the US Federal Reserve which will publish consumer credit figures today and the Atlanta Fed survey on Friday. Senior Fed officials and businessmen are concerned about the difficulties of making policy or commercial decisions with no economic data.

In Europe, events to watch out for include the Bastia of France's press conference on monetary policy for 1996 which follows its first council meeting of the year. There will also be a number of statistical releases from Germany including unemployment. Final cost-of-living figures for December and retail sales for November.

JANET BUSH

## Bulls and bears and the prospect for Labour

For the gilt market, 1996 will be dominated by two major themes — a decided fall in inflation and the growing fear of a Labour government. Yields will be caught in a tug of war between these two forces, but I believe that bullish sentiment will win out in the end, even though there will be some marked bear phases. I expect yields to end 1996 slightly below where they are now, whoever is in power — or looks likely to be in power over the next five years.

Inflation holds the key. It moved up last year, and many commentators thought that there were signs of a significant revival. However, in the end, the pick-up was contained, in spite of strong pressure from commodity prices and a weak pound.

Now, these upward impulses are dropping out and the inflation rate will reflect more closely the growth of unit labour costs. With average earnings growth of about 3½ per cent, and productivity growth continuing, the growth of unit labour costs is minimal.

Accordingly, I expect inflation to have fallen back by the middle of the year to 2½ per cent on the RPIX measure, and less than 2 per cent on the RPIY measure. In the context of Britain's inflationary history, these are remarkable figures and the gilt market will have to sit up and take notice.

The second half of the year may be dominated by political worries, and I expect to see a retreat from the market's highs. However, in my

## GILT-EDGED

view, the scale of the threat to the market from a Labour government has been much exaggerated. Firstly, macro policy under Labour is likely to be little different from that under the Tories. The Labour leadership has undergone a philosophical revolution. They no longer believe in massive state spending and borrowing. Moreover, whatever they might think, their scope for action is tightly circumscribed by the power of financial markets and by Labour's likely concern to stick well within the Maastricht guidelines in order to at least be eligible to join EMU. Given these constraints, significant fiscal expansion is

not on the cards. Government spending may well be somewhat higher, but if it is, I expect it to be matched by higher taxation.

Secondly, whatever danger Labour does present to the market has probably been largely discounted already.

This may seem surprising, but how could it be otherwise? Market participants can read opinion polls and take note of Commons majorities as well as anybody else. Whatever hopes they might harbour, they must have come to believe that we are likely to have a Labour government and, moreover, that we may

have one sooner rather than later.

This is not mere surmise. It is backed up by the evidence of bond market performance last year. It is easy to see last year's bull run in gilts as mainly a response to improving UK fundamentals, but, in fact, gilts shared in a general rally in world bond markets. Indeed, of the 15 major bond markets we cover, gilts registered the lowest fall in yields in the whole group, in spite of the improving UK fundamentals. I think that this was largely because the market was taking account of the changing political situation.

The upshot, I believe, is that even a Labour government will do little to dent the bull market in gilts. And this holds out the prospect of further falls in yields once the

market has digested the implications. Throughout the past 15 years, while both inflation and bond yields have been trending down, the bears have always been able to take comfort from the idea that a sharp policy change under a Labour government would see a return to the bad old days. If we get a Labour government and, as I believe, we still have low inflation, what else will there be to justify yields above 7 per cent? They will have to fall to levels unseen for a generation.

In this sense (but, you might think, in this sense only), what the gilt market needs now is a Labour government.

ROGER BOOTLE  
HSBC Greenwell

## Small firms' green record condemned

BY MARTIN WALLER

SMALL businesses, the backbone of any economic recovery, could be creating 70 per cent of Britain's air pollution, but only 12 per cent build the environment into their business plans, it has been claimed.

The warning comes from BMS Bossard, the management consultancy, backed by figures from the British Chamber of Commerce that suggest that only one in five small and medium-sized firms have encountered pressure from customers to improve their environmental performance.

BMS Bossard concludes, in a view that will not find much favour with the small business sector, that UK rules on planning and emissions are not

strict enough and should be better enforced, particularly to counter small businesses' laxness in the area.

Ron Brender, managing director of the consultancy, says that big, blue chip companies take the environment more seriously. "Their size makes them a bigger media target so they are far more aware of public opinion and shareholder pressure," he said. "But in a small business, staff and resources are limited and the emphasis is on getting business in, rather than worrying about the environment."

In other EC countries, environmental controls on small firms are more comprehensive, he said.

## Dealers await Medeva founder

As the Alternative Investment Market goes from strength to strength, dealers await the return of Ian Gowrie-Smith, the former head and founder of Medeva, with early indications that his latest venture is likely to head skywards.

Mr Gowrie-Smith is due to make a comeback on AIM tomorrow when his SkyPharma vehicle, which effectively reversed into Black & Edgington, the business support services group, is due to start trading.

Dealers report significant demand ahead of the issue, suggesting a healthy premi-

um over an initial placing and open offer price of 4p, with talk by traders of a first-day premium of about 100 per cent. Meanwhile, it has been another good week for the new market for smaller and growing companies, with widespread gains for a host of companies tipped by an ever-increasing following of brokers, newspapers and magazines.

Zergo Holdings, the computer consultancy specialist, was one of the star performers, as demand for the shares in thin conditions helped them to finish the week at 290p, which gave a massive 120p gain.

Others tipped included Pet City, the pet superstore group; Trocadero, the leisure complex spun off by Burford Holdings; Stanford Rook Holdings, the pharmaceutical group; and Electrophoresis International, the medical diagnostic company.

David Abrahams, a dealer at Winterflood Securities, a

market-maker in all of the stocks listed on AIM, remains optimistic on prospects. He said: "There was no new year hangover and the 'feel-good' factor has arrived early. Generally, it's been encouraging all the way."

The number of companies traded on AIM remained at 121, compared with a mere ten listed when the new market started life on June 19.

Capitalisation has increased steadily and now tops £2.3 billion, while money raised on AIM stands at £94.8 million.

PHILIP PANGALOS

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET						ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET					
Alt cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Wtd +/-	Yld %	P/E	Alt cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Wtd +/-	Yld %	P/E
15.50	AMCO Corp	109	...	5.2	12.0	47.30	Le Riches Shrs	285	+ 5	6.9	27.5
0.94	Abacus Recruit	18	...	...	...	18.40	Lon Fiduciary	95	...	...	...
18.40	A de Gruyter	125	+ 2	5.6	10.4	17.75	London Town	70	...	...	...
6.76	Alcan Gold	134	...	...	...	11.70	Lonon Gm	205	- 2	...	...
11.20	Alphac Omlon	20	+ 1	...	...	13.50	Marx & O'sas	23	...	...	...
38.80	Ann St Brewery	405	- 5	5.4	12.2	42.70	Megafarm	99	- 3	...	...
5.24	Ann St Cy Pl	885	...	9.0	...	...	Megafarm Wts	89	...	...	...
35.40	Antonia	113	- 8	...	...	5.70	Mellor	69	...	...	40.2
11.70	Ask Central	73	...	...	...	251.60	Memory Corp	425	+ 2	...	...
...	Athelney Trust	80	...	...	...	6.04	Matrodome Films	21	- 2	3.2	25.7
4.37	Bark Hlgs	17	...	...	...	11.80	Moorpark	156	...	...	...
4.03	Belacoin	45	- 1	...	...	19.50	Motifield	45	+ 1	...	...
...	Boness Leds	145	...	...	...	22.50	MWF Grp	300	...	2.7	14.5
...	Bown Lvs Cy Pl	70	...	...	...	...	Nash (Wm)	175	...	4.7	...
4.96	Brancote Hlgs	50	- 3	...	...	8.48	Nash Cart	335	...	2.2	16.2
35.50	Brancote Hlgs	205	+ 65	2.6	30.5	5.63	Nelson Cobbold	205	...	2.4	...
...	CCI Hlgs	118	...	...	...	...	Norcity II	65	...	...	...
...	CCI Founder Shs	110	...	...	...	...	Norhones	66	...	...	...
2.66	Calle line	75	...	2.6	7.8	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
8.52	Caledonian Tel	73	...	...	8.1	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
12.10	Card Clear	61	+ 1	...	10.3	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
3.96	Cassidy Bros	72	- 2	5.2	10.3	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
1.79	Cavendish W F	41	...	20.8	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
5.28	Celebrated Group	18	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
17.00	Celtic	6550	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
...	Celtic Pl Shs	6550	+100	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
14.80	CI Comms(TV)	110	+ 1	2.8	14.0	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
5.58	Charnell Int	82	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
13.10	ClubPartners	31	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
12.20	Com de Pl Fin	510	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
7.99	Constar Tel	40	...	2.5	17.1	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
11.20	Country Gals	68	...	2.4	13.0	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
2.68	Critty State Pl	73	...	9.1	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
38.40	Cross Int	107	- 2	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
14.00	Crown Products	180	...	4.7	6.5	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
10.80	D&S Management	86	+ 1	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
...	Dallat Int	11	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
3.58	David Glass	87	...	5.5	9.4	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
39.80	Dawson Hlgs	86	+ 10	4.2	12.0	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
3.21	Dean Corp	11	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
14.10	Dental	75	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
129.40	Electrophoresis Int	200	+ 15	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
5.82	Euro Sales Pl	125	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
...	Farlane	240	+ 15	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
1.77	Fel Public	75	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
21.30	Finacrest	128	...	...	55.7	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
5.88	Floral St	253	- 5	0.5	17.3	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
4.87	Florance	190	...	1.6	20.9	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
17.00	Forman	93	...	3.2	5.0	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
4.65	Fording James	9	...	...	78.8	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
26.00	Gander Hlgs	16	- 1	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
4.80	Granfills	145	...	3.4	13.1	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
32.40	Gulton	41	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
4.18	Hanson	130	...	0.3	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
59.00	Hiscox Del Int	112	+ 3	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
11.20	Indy Radio	88	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
14.70	Inns Workings	88	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
21.10	Intl Creditings	503	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
3.38	Jasmin	285	- 3	2.9	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
16.50	Jennings Bros	121	- 2	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
45.80	KS Bonnets	138	...	3.7	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
24.90	Lancashire Enterprises	230	+ 25	0.8	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
14.20	Lawrence	273	...	3.2	14.0	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...
53.70	Lewie Group	230	...	...	...	...	Norhones	75	...	...	...

## TOURIST RATES

FOUR HOURS' RATES		
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.18	2.02
Austria Sch	16.80	15.30
Belgium Fr	49.11	44.81
Canada \$	2.213	2.053
Cyprus Cyp	0.750	0.698
Denmark Kr	9.30	8.50
Finland Mk	7.34	6.69
France Fr	8.08	7.49
Germany DM	1.40	2.19
Greece Dr	368.00	364.00
Hong Kong \$	12.84	11.64
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Italy Lira	2.2600	4.6100
Japan Yen	2564.00	2.00
Japan Yen	176.70	180.70
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlands Gld	2.857	2.237
New Zealand \$	2.051	2.429
Norway Kr	1.448	9.58
Portugal Esc	245.00	226.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.38
Spain Pta	198.50	183.50
Sweden Kr	10.91	10.11
Switzerland Fr	1.64	1.78
U.K. Sterling	ref.	880.10
USA \$	1.54	1.61



Alasdair Murray on urban myths that can damage famous companies

# Just who has framed big business?

You may have heard this one before, but a friend of a friend went into a well-known fast-food restaurant recently and ordered a burger. He took one bite and spat it out after his teeth crunched on a set of tiny bones. So he decided to take the half-eaten burger to a friend, who worked at a vet's nearby, to be told that his supposed chickenburger was actually a ratburger.

Or was it that a big burger chain actually mixes its meat with worms, shipped in from a secret worm farm in France? Or that chemical tests on Mexican beers have proved that one of the principal ingredients is urine? All complete rubbish, of course, but how often have you heard these stories told by friends who swear that it is the truth?

The urban myth has become a staple of modern life. It is a kind of mystery virus, possessing the ability to spread quickly and mutating as it crosses cities and countries. And for the victims of the rumours, often businesses, there is no obvious cure.

A successful myth may or may not contain a kernel of truth but its real power stems from its expression of a genuine fear, no matter how incredible the tale may have become in the telling. For companies, such myths are no laughing matter and can damage not just the company's public reputation but actually hit sales as consumers stay away from their products.

Eradicating the myth is not just difficult but sometimes high impossible. As McDonald's is currently discovering, even a straight-faced case with a clear target can prove to be not just expensive, but provide the rumour with the oxygen of even more publicity. When it is almost impossible to track the originator of the rumour, as is always the case with urban myths, preventing its repetition becomes impossible.

Snapple has faced all of these problems in the past few years. The soft-drink company found its carefully constructed New Age image, appealing to the young and ageing hippies, in tatters, when a rumour started to circulate that the company was a supporter of Operation Rescue, a militant anti-abortion group based in America. At first Snapple laughed it off but the rumours continued to circulate and gained added weight after claims were made that the company helped fund the Ku Klux Klan. The evidence, so it was claimed, was the mysterious K, which appears on the Snapple bottle. Ironically, the K really appears on the Snapple bottle, as it does on many other products in America, to inform customers that the food is kosher. Snapple's situation became serious



Is there a hidden message? Bob Hoskins and Roger Rabbit in the film *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, which is rumoured to reveal more than it meant to

when it learnt that students in California, one of the company's biggest markets, were threatening to organise a boycott of Snapple's products. Snapple hired a private detective to try to track down the source of the rumours, organised flyers to be distributed refuting the claims and took out adverts in local newspapers. The finger of suspicion for stirring the rumours pointed at rival drinks manufacturers in the region, but proving it was impossible.

Another company that has suffered is Procter & Gamble, the giant soap powder company, which has been fighting off satanic rumours for more than 15 years. They apparently derive from the fact that P&G's century-old logo contained a moon and stars, which some Christian fundamentalists interpreted as a sign of the devil. A story began to circulate in

America's southern states that the logo contained the number 666 and that a satanic ram's horn would soon start appearing on the products. It was also claimed that a senior P&G executive had appeared on the American chat show *Donahue* to confirm that the company gave money to the satanic church.

Ever since this P&G has been fighting persistent outbreaks of the rumour all over the world. The myth even reached a small village in Norfolk this autumn, after a priest published a letter detailing the claims in the parish newsletter.

The company has spent millions of dollars on lawsuits, suing a number of individuals caught spreading the rumour, including a number of distributors for arrival soap company, Amway. But P&G has never been able to pin down the exact origins of the rumour in spite of the

apparent link to Amway. The company was even finally forced to remove its trademark from its products and eliminate the offending symbols from its logo.

But there is another dimension to the Procter & Gamble rumours. The company has a record of secretive behaviour and dominates both the economic and political life of its home base, Cincinnati.

In 1990 after a *Wall Street Journal* reporter had published some P&G documents, Ed Artz, the chief executive, persuaded the county prosecutor to issue a subpoena to track all local phone calls and mobilised the head of the local fraud squad, who also happened to work part time in P&G's own security department. Nothing satanic, of course, but this kind of behaviour provides food for the conspiracy theorists.

Secrecy and idiosyncratic corporate behaviour can contribute to the creation of business myths.

Disney, dominated even now by the myths surrounding its eccentric founder Walt Disney, has been generating myths for years, from tales of child abduction gangs working in Disney resorts, to Three Little Pigs molesting women visitors in Disneyland.

Most of the latest rumours are based around supposed sex scenes that can be seen in Disney's cartoons. There is Jessica Rabbit appearing naked in *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* or graffiti in a toilet used by Bob Hoskins in the same film reading, "Call Allyson Wonderland" and giving Disney chief Michael Eisner's telephone number below. Or the word "Sex" being formed by a cloud of swirling dust in *The Lion King*. The rumours would be entirely

laughable, stemming from editing mistakes or very vivid imaginations, were it not for the fact that they have encouraged an American anti-abortion group, American Life League, to run a campaign against "subliminal sexual messages", and boycott Disney films.

There is some evidence that disgruntled animators, who wished to get back at the puritanical Walt Disney, used to try to insert hidden jokes into the films. And one animator was sacked for suggesting an adult version of Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

But even if a company's behaviour is exemplary, it will not necessarily escape the rumour mill. Simply being big and successful is often enough. Americans — and most business myths originate in America — have a long tradition of paranoia about any organisation that seems to possess power, whether it is political or economic.

It has been expressed in films such as *The Parallax View* and *The China Syndrome*, which have presented the American corporation as a sinister power. So it comes as little surprise to find that the latest company to fall victim to business myths is Microsoft.

The software giant has even spawned a hate group on the Internet, finding that the very systems it develops are the perfect disinformation technology.

Earlier this year, a rumour spread that Microsoft's Windows 95 package included a programme that could detect all the software you were using on your computer and relay that information and even details of your personal files back to Microsoft.

In reality, the programme, Registration Wizard, can only detect a limited amount of software, cannot read files, and can only be used with the express permission of the consumer. But the rumour proved so powerful that the Australian Navy, among others, insisted on running security tests before installing Microsoft software.

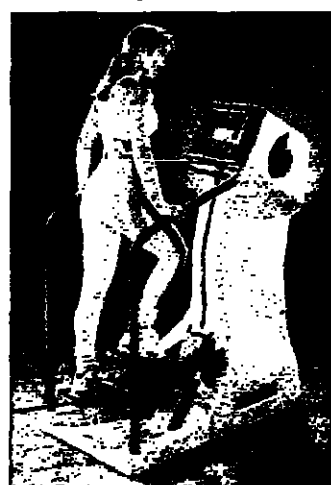
More recently, rumours that Microsoft's Internet software deliberately disables its competitors' software have led to the US Department of Justice taking an interest. Incompatible software is a common computing problem and the scope of the problem with Microsoft seems limited, suggesting it was a genuine mistake.

But while Microsoft has been able to play down these individual rumours, damage has undoubtedly been done to the company's reputation. Microsoft is beginning to find out, just as Disney and Procter & Gamble before, that once the rumour mill feeds a theme that strikes a chord with the public, people will believe just about anything.

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## Enjoy a free day at a health club

An introduction to a health club is an ideal way to start a fitter lifestyle. And starting today, *The Times* invites readers to spend a free day at



one of the health clubs listed right. All the clubs participating in this offer provide a range of fitness regimes to suit every taste and to encourage you to be healthier.

As our guest you will be given a free fitness assessment, free use of most facilities at the participating club, such as its swimming pool, sauna, steam room, aerobics classes or gym.

All you have to do is collect four of the six tokens appearing in *The Times* this week and present the voucher below. And, readers who take up our offer of a free workout at a participating club will be entered into a draw to receive a free one-year membership to the club. A total of £80,000 worth of free memberships are available. This offer is open until the end of February, 1996.

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This form, when four different Times tokens are attached, entitles the bearer to free admittance to one of the health clubs featured in *The Times* promotion on January 8. This form also entitles the bearer to be entered into a prize draw with the chance to win a year's free membership at the health club visited. Offer valid until February 29, 1996.

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#### SCOTLAND

GLASGOW, LivingWell at Hilton, William Street, G3, 0141 204 5512; LivingWell HC, St Vincent Street, G2, 0141 248 9788

NORTHERN IRELAND  
BELFAST, City Gym, Wellington Place, 01232 327231

#### NORTH EAST

GARFORTH, LivingWell at Hilton, Garforth, Leeds 0113 2876444  
GRIMSBY, Millfields Health Club, Barge, 01472 356068  
HULL, The Metropolitan Club, Kingston Park, 01482 321191  
LEEDS, LivingWell at Hilton, Neville Street, 0113 2445443  
NEWCASTLE, Waves HC, Quayside, 0191 222 0333; LivingWell HC, Carliol Square, 0191 230 2717

#### NORTH WEST

MANCHESTER, LivingWell HC, Quay Street, M3, 0161 839 0606; Copthorne Hotel, Salford Quays, 0161 873 7321

#### MIDLANDS

BIRMINGHAM, LivingWell HC, Priory Queensway, B4, 0121 238 7789; Hattons HC, Paradise Circus, 0121 200 2727; David Lloyd, Shady Lane, 0121 325 0700  
BURTON ON TRENT, Moseley Fitness Centre, Moseley Street, 01283 533600  
COVENTRY, LivingWell at Hilton, Walsgrave Triangle, 01203 841019  
DUDLEY, Crystals HC, Brierley Hill, 01364 402882  
LOCKINGTON, LivingWell at Hilton, Derby Rd, 01509 674 166  
MILTON KEYNES, LivingWell HC, Avelbury Boulevard, 01908 688286; LivingWell at Hilton, Timbold Drive, 01908 240422  
WARWICK, LivingWell at Hilton, Junction 15, M40, 01926 483700

#### WALES

CARDIFF, David Lloyd, Ipswich Road, 01222 460046; Waves HC, Copthorne Way, 01222 599100; The Metropolitan Club, Ocean Way, 01222 456000

#### GREATER LONDON

PORTLAND PLACE, LivingWell at Hilton, London W1, 0171 636 1000

WESTMINSTER, LivingWell Health Club, Millbank, London SW1, 0171 233 3579  
PARK LANE, LivingWell HC, London W1, 0171 629 6974  
BLOOMSBURY, Mecklenburgh HC, London WC1, 0171 813 0555  
ISLE OF DOGS, Arena Racquet & Sports Club, London E14, 0171 515 8940  
CITY OF LONDON, Espree HC, Royal Mint Court, EC3, 0171 488 1222; Espree HC, Tudor Street, EC4, 0171 867 1222; Broadgate Club, Exchange Place, 0171 375 2464  
BLOOMSBURY, Physique, Judd Street, London WC1, 0171 837 8880  
TUFNELL PARK, Maximum Fitness, Fortess Road, London NW6, 0171 482 3941  
BARBICAN, Holmes Place, London EC1, 0171 374 0091  
BATTERSEA, The Metropolitan Club, Sheepcote Lane, SW11, 0171 228 4400  
CHELSEA, Holmes Place, London SW10, 0171 332 9452  
WEST END, The Metropolitan Club, Kingly Street, W1, 0171 734 5002  
OXFORD STREET, Holmes Place, London W1, 0171 436 0500  
FULHAM, The Metropolitan Club, North End Road, SW6, 0171 610 1410  
EALING, Holmes Place, London W5, 0171 579 9433  
MUSWELL HILL, Laboratory Spa and HC, The Avenue, London N10, 0181 482 3000  
HOUNSLOW, David Lloyd HC, Southall Lane, 0181 573 9378  
ENFIELD, David Lloyd HC, Caterhatch Lane, 0181 364 5858  
CROYDON, The Surrey Club, Hannibal Way, 0181 681 1331



LivingWell at Hilton, Purley Way 0181 867 4444  
KINGSTON, Holmes Place, Wood St, Surrey, 0181 549 7700  
WANDSWORTH, The Metropolitan Club, Burr Road, SW18, 0181 874 1155  
ESTERN AVENUE, Dragons, Rowdell Rd, 0181 841 5611  
EWELL, Dragons, Ruxley Lane, Surrey, 0181 393 9011  
RICHMOND, Pinnacle, Kew Foot Rd, 0181 332 7185  
NORBURY, Pinnacle, London Road, 0181 679 2226  
SUTTON & CHEAM, Pinnacle, Gander Green Lane, 0181 661 8962  
WEMBLEY, LivingWell at Hilton, Empire Way, 0181 795 4118  
TWICKENHAM, The Metropolitan Club Cranford Way, 0181 892 2251

#### SOUTH EAST

GATWICK, LivingWell at Hilton, Gatwick Airport, 01293 527261  
WATFORD, LivingWell at Hilton, Eltham Way, 01923 210247  
READING, David Lloyd, Thames Valley Park Drive 01794 662904  
EASTBOURNE, David Lloyd, Broadwater Way, 01323 508963  
WEST BYFLEET, Pinnacle, Pyford Road, 01832 351635  
ST ALBANS, Pinnacle, Call Bames Lane, 01727 889087  
WINDSOR, Pinnacle, Heiston Lane, 01753 829355  
HOVE, Dragons, St Hellers Ave, 01273 724211  
GUILDFORD, Dragons, Epsom Road, 01483 458811  
WOKING, Chris Lane Tennis & Country Club, Westfield Ave, 01483 722113  
CRAWLEY, Copthorne The Club, Copthorne Road, 01342 715022  
Crawley, P.J.'s Copthorne, 01342 714984  
SLOUGH, Waves, Clippenhams Lane, 01753 518222

#### SOUTH WEST

CHILWORTH, LivingWell at Hilton, Bracken Place, SOUTHAMPTON, 01703 766926  
SWINDON, LivingWell at Hilton, Great Western Way, 01793 410937  
Bournemouth, David Lloyd, Knole Rd, 01202 394333  
RINGWOOD, David Lloyd, Christchurch Road, 01425 470101  
PLYMOUTH, Plymsoles, Armada Way, 01752 224161  
PORTSMOUTH, The Metropolitan Club, Alexandra Park, 01705 664748



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1. Collect four of the six tokens appearing in *The Times* until Saturday January 13 and attach them to the voucher, left.
2. To book your day of health and fitness, telephone the club of your choice from those listed, quoting this offer. Your visit must be arranged in advance by telephone.
3. The voucher is only valid for one visit to one club.
4. The voucher must be presented to the club when you visit. The bearer will be entitled to use the club's facilities for the day free.
5. The offer is valid until February 29, 1996.
6. The voucher also entitles the bearer to be entered into a free prize draw, with the chance to win a year's free membership of that club.
7. The offer is subject to availability at the time of advance booking.
8. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.
9. There may be additional charges if you wish to book beauty treatments. It is advisable to confirm what facilities are included in the offer at the time of booking.

THE SCIENCE OF AGELESS AGEING: SEE PAGES 12 AND 13



# Curtain to rise on sponsorship as AT&T starts calling Britain

By ERIC REGULY

AT&T, America's largest telephone company, is set to make a series of announcements this month aimed at raising its profile in Britain and establishing itself as a viable competitor to BT.

On Wednesday, the company, whose restructuring of itself into three businesses will result in 40,000 redundancies, will announce increased theatre sponsorship. It already sponsors the Almeida Theatre, in north London, and aims to add two national theatre companies to its list.

In a second announcement, in late

January, the company will announce business initiatives likely to include the launch of a package of AT&T-branded telecoms products for big corporate customers. In addition, it is likely to disclose an alliance with City of London Telecommunications, known as Colt.

Colt, owned by Fidelity Investments of Boston, the mutual fund company, was launched two years ago to provide full telecoms services to businesses in the City using its own network of high-capacity glass-fibre cables. AT&T will probably disclose that it has negotiated an interconnection agreement with Colt and that Colt

will sell the AT&T products as agent. Neither company would comment.

The products might range from an international data communications service to a virtual private network, allowing companies to connect their London and overseas offices with a private exchange. Other services, including tariff-free 0800 business, an Internet access service and an AT&T phone card are possible.

AT&T was granted a full operator's licence by the Government in late 1994, but has done little with it other than promote its name by such means as stage sponsorships. Of the 7,500 AT&T employ-

ees in Britain, fewer than 200 work on the telecoms side; most make hardware such as switches and cash machines.

Building up the brand name, however, has been a smart move. Indeed, AT&T is among the best-known American brand names, with Coca-Cola and McDonald's.

AT&T, founded as Bell Telephone in 1877, is so ingrained in the American psyche that many Americans still think that it provides their local phone service. AT&T, in fact, has been confined to the long-distance market since the US Government broke it up, creating seven "baby bells", in the early 1990s. New

legislation in the US will let it re-enter the local market within a couple of years.

The AT&T name has travelled well. James Ross, a telecoms analyst with Hoare Govett, said: "AT&T's brand name is very strong. The corporate market does know about it."

Now the company has to build businesses around it. Attacking the business market will be its first move. However, BT, in spite of AT&T's power, is not worried. It does not think that AT&T has many advantages over other operators in serving big business.

BT's attitude may change if AT&T

finds a way to enter the domestic market. AT&T wants to offer services to residential customers, but when and how it will do so are not clear.

Since AT&T lacks a domestic network, and would not want to spend billions of pounds on building one, it would have to form a partnership with a cable company or a radio-based phone service, or go on the acquisition trail. Nothing came of AT&T's talks with Cable and Wireless's about buying C&W's 80 per cent stake in Mercury Communications. BT's main rival, but management changes in C&W may give AT&T another chance.

## Cash boost from float for Bank of Scotland

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

THE Bank of Scotland is set to recap up to A\$438 million (£215 million) of the money it spent on its latest acquisition, BankWest, the Australian bank, through a public offer for 49 per cent of the shares that kicks off today.

The 213.5 million shares in BankWest are being sold at A\$2.05 each. It will be floated on the Australian Stock Exchange next month.

The sell-down of the bank, which Bank of Scotland acquired last month for A\$900 million, was one of the key conditions attached to the sale by the Western Australian state government, which pledged to allow the state's residents the chance to share in its privatisation process.

Seventy per cent of the shares have been earmarked for state residents. Bank of Scotland, which will retain a

51 per cent stake in BankWest, has agreed to mop up any unsold shares, although Australian analysts predict that demand will be so strong that the offer will have to close early.

Andrew McGuckin, banking analyst at Porter Western, a stockbroker in Perth, said yesterday: "The outlook for Western Australia is very good over the next few years — it is the fastest growing state in the country — and BankWest is well placed to benefit from that."

"Not only is there room for it to lend to the commercial sector, where there are a lot of resource projects coming on stream, but the housing market too is about to turn here. BankWest is well positioned for growth and has also been attractively priced."

BankWest, Western Australia's largest financial institution, is forecasting a 6 per cent rise in net profits to A\$100.2 million for the year to February 1997, with pre-tax profits up 16.9 per cent to A\$159.9 million. It is pledging to pay a dividend of 16.5 cents per share for 1997, representing a yield of 8 per cent.

BankWest has almost 600,000 customers and accounts for 24 per cent of all bank lending in the state. Just over half of its lending is to the residential market, with commercial lending accounting for another 40 per cent and consumer markets for the rest.

Fraser Campbell, the general manager of the Bank of Scotland, said: "It will be business as usual at BankWest with Bank of Scotland adding value in its areas of expertise where appropriate." The share offer is scheduled to close on February 9.

### Ruling due on pensions

A JUDGE is today due to make a landmark ruling on whether alleged victims of personal pensions mis-selling can pursue individual companies in the courts, or whether they are bound by the compensation review system set up by the Personal Investment Authority in the £4 billion pensions mis-selling scandal.

Judge Raymond Jack QC, will give judgment in the Bristol Mercantile Court on a stay of proceedings action brought by a group of life companies, including the Prudential, TSB and Irish Life.



Malcolm Edwards, right, the former commercial director of British Coal, founded Coal Investments two years ago

## Coal group shapes rescue deal

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

COAL INVESTMENTS, the troubled mining company that had its shares suspended last month after failing to deliver interim results amid mounting financial difficulties, will announce a rescue rights package within the next two weeks.

The company, which was formed from the remaining British mines after British Coal sold the more lucrative collieries, is arranging last-minute details of the issue, which is believed to be worth about £20 million, while also hunting for a new chief executive.

At present, the group is headed by Malcolm Edwards, the former commercial director of British Coal who founded Coal Investments two years ago, and who is both chairman and chief executive. The company, which has had a team of headhunters working for the last two months, said there was more work than one person could manage. However, rumours have abounded in the City of dissatisfaction with Mr Edwards, and it has been speculated that the securing of a successful refinancing is dependent on his removal to a

less pivotal position. Coal Investments has been locked in negotiations with Guinness Mahon, its merchant bank, and James Capel, the broker, since last month when the suspension of its shares coincided with the refusal of planning permission for a coalface in Staffordshire for which the company had high production hopes.

It is at present debating whether to appeal against the decision or concentrate production efforts elsewhere. A spokesman said: "It is a question of what will be quicker — whether we spend

the time and money arguing against the decision, which could take several months, or look elsewhere."

Meanwhile the production force has been mobilised to step up output for the company, which had been expected to turn in losses of £11 million at its scheduled interim stage last year, with coalface workers returning to work a day early from the Christmas holiday.

Since its formation, Coal Investments has raised £50 million from investors, most of which has been spent on developing its six collieries.

## Jaguar exports top £1bn as world sales surge 30%

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

WORLDWIDE sales of Jaguar cars jumped 30 per cent last year, with exports totalling more than £1 billion for the first time.

The success of the company's new XJ range of saloons has boosted registrations in all its major markets. Sales in Europe more than doubled, while sales in the United States, the company's biggest and most important market, increased 19 per cent.

Sales in Japan, of 2,311 cars, were also up 60 per cent in the face of competition from German and American rivals as well as Japan's domestic range of executive and luxury models. In Britain, registrations rose from 6,659 in 1994 to 8,727 last year, giving Jaguar its highest share of the market for luxury models since 1988.

The figures are a major boost for a company that struggled through the years of recession after its £1.6 billion takeover by Ford. Analysts feared that Jaguar would lose its identity and its markets as a Ford subsidiary, but huge investment from the American parent has made the business resurgent.

Everything hinged on the new XJ range, launched last year. The car had to have a winning design, and the workforce at the Browns Lane headquarters factory had to make it efficiently and well enough to pass every quality standard in demanding markets such as the US and Japan.

Nick Scheele, Jaguar chairman and chief executive, made the company the first of the European luxury manufacturers to offer three-year warranties, such was his confidence.

The reception for the car has exceeded Jaguar's hopes and Mr Scheele said: "We have seen a dramatic improvement in our sales around the world. Product excellence, combined with a successful export mar-

keting strategy, resulted in our export earnings exceeding £1 billion for the first time."

Worldwide sales were 39,727 last year compared with the 1994 performance of 30,020. Sales in North America have revived substantially, with 1994's 15,906 improved to 19,030. Germany has traditionally been a poor market for Jaguar, but the Coventry company improved registrations from 1,430 to 2,525.

### CBI gives property warning

Business is expecting a fall in demand for commercial property over the next six months, according to survey evidence today from the Confederation of British Industry and Grimley, the property adviser.

Twenty-three per cent of more than 800 companies surveyed expect to increase property holdings, while 28 per cent expect to reduce them. The balance of 5 per cent marks a fall from the positive 2 per cent in the CBI's last survey.

### Job changes

The Government should promise further employment law reform by pledging to scrap legal provisions on unfair dismissal and redundancy compensation, according to proposals today by Warwick Lightfoot, a Royal Bank of Scotland economist and former Treasury adviser, in *Unfinished Business* for Politeia, a free-market think tank.

### Food prices

A rumbling battle of attrition among food retailers rather than another full-scale price war is expected after statistics today from Verdict, the research group. Profit margins are forecast to fall steadily with price competition and increasing costs making for a medium-term squeeze.

### Directors' list

A register of non-executive directors for smaller companies, in a drive to stimulate interest for such posts among small and medium-sized companies, will be launched tomorrow by Kingston Smith, the firm of accountants.

## Sales push Prozac into the top five

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

PROZAC, the anti-depressant, became one of the world's five bestselling drugs last year with sales of more than \$2 billion. Sales of the drug, which is manufactured by Eli Lilly, the US pharmaceutical company, are set to increase to more than \$3 billion by the end of the decade in spite of the controversy surrounding its medical use.

But Zantac, the ulcer drug manufactured by Glaxo Wellcome, which is based in the UK, will lose its position as

the bestselling global medicine, according to a report on the pharmaceutical industry by Lehman Brothers, the merchant bank. The report estimates that sales will decline dramatically from \$2.7 billion in 1994 to \$700 million by the year 2000. Losec, a rival ulcer drug produced by Astra, the Swedish drug company, is set to replace Zantac as the biggest selling drug with sales reaching \$4 billion in 2000.

Lehman Brothers predicts the biggest growing drug over

the next few years will be Epogen, a red-blood cell stimulator, developed by US biotechnology company Amgen and sold under licence by several leading pharmaceutical companies. Epogen is used to treat anaemia during major surgery or kidney dialysis and sales should grow to \$3.5 billion by the year 2000.

Another top five drug in 1995, Pravachol, the anti-cholesterol drug produced by Bristol-Myers Squibb, the US company, is also set to disappear, to be replaced by Zocor, produced by Merck, another US drug company.

Amgen is generally regarded as the most successful biotechnology company in the world and Lehman Brothers sees its collaboration with pharmaceutical companies as the way forward for the industry. The report argues that joint ventures will optimise returns on research and development costs and increase the research base, encouraging more medical breakthroughs.

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Jon Ashworth reports on a luxury retreat designed for business executives

## Brainstorming leads to five-star idea

BRITAIN'S first five-star retreat for business executives has opened in the Lake District, in a move that promises to bring American-style luxury to the UK corporate scene. Groups of up to 20 can thrash out ideas in private at the glided venue, which costs from £250 per person per night and has a helipad in the grounds.

The Samling at Dovenest, overlooking Windermere, is the work of Roger McKechnie, who created the Philias Fogg range of snacks and sold out to United Biscuits two years ago. Mr McKechnie has invested more than £2 million and has high hopes for the future. Marketing begins in earnest in the new year.

Mr McKechnie and his senior aides used to hold animated brainstorming sessions three or four times a year, taking over entire pubs and hotels. He said: "We came away from them feeling remarkably focused and recharged. As we got bigger, we wanted the equivalent of a five-star hotel, with conference facilities and a nice location. There is nowhere in Britain you can do this."

He has spent the past year-and-a-



The Samling is meant to be like a top hotel with conference facilities

half running the lakeside retreat into just such a venue. The Samling has ten rooms and aims to provide a secure haven for executives plotting takeover bids, or simply deciding future strategy. Rooms are fitted with direct-dial fax and telephone, and a top-class chef will provide everything from beans on toast to a three-course meal at £10. Free access to the bar is included in the price. Rates are £250-a-day single, and £350 double.

Bookings have been taken from aerospace, motor and telecommunications groups, but most of the interest so far has been local. Brainstorming aside, Mr McKechnie aims to make The Samling available for corporate entertaining and house parties. The venue has an 80-seat theatre and studio, and the hope is to attract visiting opera singers for fringe-style reviews. He said: "It's starting to get known on a national scale."

The house is no stranger to the creative touch. It was first owned by the landlord of one William Wordsworth, who was inspired by the "babbling" stream which runs through the garden. And Felicia Hemans, the Victorian romantic poet, penned the famous lines "The boy stood on the burning deck" on the same rustic turf.

Business executives who succumb to its charms may even follow in the footsteps of Mr McKechnie, who made more than £7 million from the United Biscuits sale. The idea for Philias Fogg was dreamed up in the back of a pub in London's Old Brompton Road.

## Three tenors concert

Ticket, coach travel, two nights in London from £189

Today *The Times* offers you the chance to go to the concert of the decade at Wembley Stadium on Saturday, July 6, 1996. You leave home on Friday, July 5, returning on Sunday. The concert coach package, from £189, includes a ticket value £35, which you can upgrade if you wish. If you prefer to drive yourself, there is a £20 discount.

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Day 3 Leave your hotel after breakfast and stop off in Windsor for an opportunity to visit the castle. Depart Windsor early afternoon and return home.  
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It's not y

Leaders of the construction industry have been summoned to the Westminster home of the Royal Academy of Engineering this afternoon to be told that they must "change or die". Scions of famous dynasties and managers imbued with the arcane ways of the trade are used to harsh truths. Their industry has been pummeled by the collapse of the commercial property boom, knocked over by drastic cuts and delays in public spending, starved by the long slump in housing, denuded of half a million jobs, and has been found wanting by the official Latham report.

Building bosses will therefore receive the report with the weary anticipation of a punchbag waiting the next would-be Frank Bruno strip off. The academy has limited mandate functions but a thousand highly placed fellows keen to exert influence in Whitehall and among their peers.

Their key message is that construction today mirrors the travails of manufacturers in the 1980s. It has a glorious past and can still manage the most breathtaking projects. But it has lost confidence, does not invest enough in training or research, is plagued with over-capacity and has learnt to survive on water-tight profit margins. Beyond a handful of world-class performers, it has become uncompetitive and faces rising foreign threats at home and abroad. Sir William Barlow, academy president, sees rationalisation as inevitable.

## Engineers design a new construction industry



GRAHAM SEAL

"The industry must change fast if it is to avoid the most damaging experiences of manufacturing."

Much of the remedy is familiar, either from Latham recommendations now being run through task forces, or from the jargon of management consultants. Clients, not least in the public sector, should be educated to prepare tenders and draw up contracts that put partnership and overall cost above initial price. Only this could end the spectacle of contractors reaching for their lawyers to make claims for late changes or squeezing sub-contractors to try to make money. Management concepts such as benchmarking, total quality management, empowerment and client focus now make up for lack of common sense in much of the reformed manufacturing sector.

Bosses who truly believe can inject some of these ideas into their firms. In housing, where they have more control from planning to retail sale, they must make adjustments to stable prices, just like homebuyers. Builders must learn to do without land price inflation, improve the building process and offer a better combination of quality and price

than the second-hand market. In big-ticket construction, the goals will be harder to achieve without buoyant demand. Marks & Spencer type relationships, between client and builder or builder and suppliers, are not likely to make much progress when tenders deliver such apparent bargains. Capacity is also hard to slum in an industry that sometimes seems the only one left in Britain prepared to take risks.

The few healthy companies would be happy to see weaker ones squeezed out of the market during these bad times. Yet seemingly dodgy firms manage to stump up backing for performance bonds. The

latest attempts at restructuring suggest it will not be easy. Had Kvaerner managed to buy Amec, it might well have sold the general construction business. But the City did not like a modest, fixed offer. City doubts are also voiced over Wimpey's plan to swap its materials and construction divisions for Tarmac's ailing housing business.

At the other end, it is easy for smaller firms to trade up. To compete, carrier big firms have learnt to manage portfolios of contracts running into billions with little or no net capital employed. Returns are wonderful in the good times. For people in love with their business, it is even worth keeping going when margins are minimal. So they have shed overheads fast, mainly by cutting full-time employment of craftsmen and site managers.

The switch to private finance for public sector projects could be a key to reform. Companies of substance will be needed to finance and own the projects, even if they can manage on 15 per cent equity to 85 per cent debt. When contractors become, in effect, their own clients, there is no incentive to bid low on optimistic assumptions and fatten out the

contract later. If contractors have no one else to turn to, they must change culture and take their ultimate public sector clients with them.

For this to happen, however, others must adapt their culture too. Only contractors seem prepared to take the risk of the trebled up-front costs of bidding under the private finance initiative. The Government might help to defray these new costs. But logic points to new financial vehicles: companies that embrace contracting, operating utilities and owning completed projects — much as some contractors used to build office blocks to own themselves.

France has such companies. They could develop here from the new road-building consortia. But City investors who insist on trading gilts interest separately from the capital seem as unlikely to welcome such novelties as to share the new risks. Utility regulators, whose charges are well cast to participate in these reforms, see partnership and group co-operation as a cosy menace to customers and insist that dealings be at arms length.

Engineers, building bosses and well-meaning civil servants will not get far by talking to each other unless bankers, City institutions and public watchdogs are involved and prepared to play their part. Britain does not want the corruption that so often lies behind the tender process in some continental countries. But a little more co-operation and a little less devotion to form would go a long way to improve efficiency.

## In search of an identity

The McDavid's Reunion Song, Radio 4, 9.00pm.

An estimated 22,000 illegitimate children were born as a result of Canadian servicemen's relationships with British women during the Second World War. Mary Ward's feature follows the very different fates of two of them — Carol Wilson and Ian Wallis — as they tried to find out if their fathers were still living, and if so, where. There was one huge barrier in their way. Canada has a no-disclosure law under which, for 20 years, the servicemen's whereabouts cannot be divulged. Helped by Carol, Ian managed to find a way through the net. Carol herself has spent 15 years trying to do the same, so far without success. "I just want to know who I am," she says.

A Man For All Music, Radio 4 (FM), 11.00pm.

All radio listeners should take a leaf out of Jane Knorr-Mawer's book. The relevant chapter heading would read something like: "Do your homework. Get to know more about your interviewees than they know about themselves." The Knorr-Mawer technique is impressively at work again in the first of her four interviews with André Previn, conductor, composer, arranger and soloist. The span of his music-making in episode one is startlingly wide: it begins with Previn, age 5, playing four-handed piano versions of Beethoven and Chopin symphonies with his father, and ends with Previn, age 26, two-handedly conducting the MGM Orchestra in a Gene Kelly film for which he wrote some of the numbers.

Peter Daville

## Money laundering is rampant, says Grania Langdon-Down

# Fraudsters evade the police net

Money launderers could be slipping through the net because there are insufficient resources to investigate the suspicions of the staff of banks, building societies and other financial institutions according to Professor Michael Levi, director of the White Collar and Organised Crime Unit at the University of Wales in Cardiff.

Professor Levi says only a small proportion of the thousands of reports of suspicious transactions made each year receive more than routine police checks. The white collar crime expert said there was also concern over the level of feedback from police forces on the quality of the disclosures. This meant financial institutions were unable to evaluate how good a job they were doing in spotting criminal activity.



Albert Pacey, the National Criminal Intelligence Service's director general, has said that police cannot cope with some white collar crime

It is nearly a decade since financial institutions were first required to report suspicious transactions under the 1986 Drug Trafficking Offences Act.

The scope of the regulations was greatly extended in April 1994 to apply to proceeds of all crimes. Anyone working in financial services or handling clients' money, such as solicitors, also became liable to prosecution if they did not have proper monitoring systems, failed to report suspicious financial transactions or revealed an account was being investigated. For non-criminal customers it can cause difficulty opening a bank account if the name you use is a little different from the one on official documents.

Last year, about 15,000 suspicious transactions were reported to the National Criminal Intelligence Service's (NCIS) economic crimes unit. About one in five was found to have some criminal connection.

The level of reporting has dropped slightly this year, with 6,330 in the six months from April, including 3,450 from banks, 1,263 from building societies, 255 from bureaux de change and 85 from solicitors.

The British Bankers Association, which has 300 members from 60 different countries, echoed the concerns highlighted by Profes-

sor Levi. Sue Thornhill, assistant director, said: "Once the information is in the system, there have to be the resources to investigate, prosecute and confiscate the proceeds to deter the criminals."

"The financial sector does get very frustrated at not seeing the effects of their disclosures. Until we know what proportion is giving rise to investigations and are proved to be based on valid suspicions, we just don't know whether we are winning the battle or not."

Perry Nove, Assistant Commissioner of the City of London Police, chaired an Association of Chief Police Officers' working party on financial disclosures.

He said: "The service has always been conscious of the clamour for feedback, but there are some problems."

"Some disclosures lead to arrests which are then sub judice until the case is concluded. In other cases, the information may harden up

suspicions and lead to a long operation. Silence at our end does not mean disinterest. Also a very large percentage do not point to criminality once inquiries are made. However, we are working on

er this year, Albert Pacey, NCIS's director general, gave warning that some cases were beyond the resources and expertise of the police and other agencies and should be tackled by a

Professor Levi argued the amounts were "prone to exaggeration" because they were based on criminals' incomes and not the amount they saved. He said many spent their ill-gotten gains on cars or the bookies.

It was only at the highest levels of a criminal organisation that sophisticated methods were used to launder profits through "front" companies or underground banking arrangements.

Yet, the overwhelming number of disclosures centred on personal accounts while the reporting of potentially suspicious inter-company transactions was a "black hole" in the system.

Financial disclosures have helped detect some major cases, including the stealing of banknotes due to be destroyed by the Bank of England and millions of pounds embezzled by a senior accountant with the Metropolitan Police. But the professor said very few reports that resulted in a "hit" — a report on a person or

company already suspected by police or customs — involved more than £100,000.

The internal auditor of a large north American bank said staff at its London office reported about two dozen suspicious transactions a year to its money laundering reporting officer. About half were sent on to NCIS.

He said the lack of feedback from the police was very frustrating. "We know what things are suspicious. What we don't know is whether the police have been successful in following it up and getting enough evidence to bring the people to book."

It was very satisfying when their suspicions were proved right. Some months ago, a man tried to deposit £8,000 in Scottish bank notes, claiming he had sold a car in Scotland. "We weren't convinced and made a report. Later we were told the man was involved in blackmail, fraud and money laundering," he said.



Only a small proportion of suspicious transactions receive more than routine police checks — Michael Levi

improving the flow of information so NCIS can advise financial institutions on advice movements of criminal assets and any ingenious new ways of being used to try to fox the system." Early-

dedicated anti-money laundering task force.

It is estimated that annually, £500 billion of drugs money is laundered internationally, with the UK figure put at £2.5 billion. But

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## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

**Cannon still on the ball**

YOU can knock, but you can't keep, a good lawyer down, as the determination of Eamon Cannon, property expert at the law firm Fladgate Fielder, proves. Cannon, an Irish international rugby player in the 1960s, was in Coventry on business when he was knocked down by a car. But Cannon was determined his injuries would not prevent completion of the large property deal that had taken him there. He was last seen in his hospital gown, with legal documents tucked under his good arm, heading for a touchdown in a room the

hospital had set aside for the completion formalities.

**Held to account**

IF, on Wednesday, you see swarms of police and fraud squad officers descending on the Chartered Accountants' Hall, please don't think the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) has been raided. They'll all be attending a one-day conference on the problems of fraud, at Moorgate Place, organised by ICAEW's audit faculty.

**Scotch missed**

ALLAN Shiach, head of the Maclean whisky distillery, is always assured of wide publicity for his company, for in Hollywood, he is Allan Scott, the screenwriter, who has written more than 40 scripts. In the latest edition of *Harpers & Queen*, Shiach-Scott admits that in every script he weaves in a reference to Maclean. "I suddenly realised my last script for Disney didn't have it, so I had to go back and find a scene for it. And one they wouldn't bloody cut," he says.

**Transfer list**

IN the wake of Saturday's mega National Lottery jackpot, solicitor Mel Goldberg who is well used to arranging transfers of football players for several million pounds, is

joining a very apt partnership — Epstein Grower & Michael Freeman. The senior partner, Howard Epstein, settled the £18 million Mohidin husband and wife lottery dispute.

**Hill climber**

FURTHER proof that there is life after Hill Samuel comes from Warren Finegold who, after leaving TSB's merchant bank, went on to build up a name for himself in the electricity sector at Goldman Sachs. Next month he joins UBS to become a managing director in its fast-growing corporate finance division, reporting to Malcolm Le May.

COLIN CAMPBELL

## RADIO 1

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, Radio 1, 6.00am. (Blessed at Thon, O Lord, Vespers); Brahms (Symphony No 3 in F; Vivaldi (Flute Concerto in G minor; Haydn (Symphony No 11 in E flat); 6.05 Vaughan Williams (Overture, The Wasps); Strauss (Just Concertino for clarinet and bassoon).

9.00am Morning Collection with Paul Gonsky, Radio 1, 9.00am. (English Dances); Haydn (Concerto in F; Scarlatti (Sonatas in B flat, K544 and K545); 9.30am Copland (Rodeo Suite); 10.00am Musical Encounters. Monteverdi (Magnificat); Ravel (Introduction and Allegro); Hahn (Chaconne); 10.05am (Symphony No 24 in B flat; Vaughan Williams (The Turning of the Earth); 10.10am (The Turn of Mind); 10.15am (The Turn of Mind); 10.20am (The Turn of Mind); 10.25am (The Turn of Mind); 10.30am (The Turn of Mind); 10.35am (The Turn of Mind); 10.40am (The Turn of Mind); 10.45am (The Turn of Mind); 10.50am (The Turn of Mind); 10.55am (The Turn of Mind); 11.00am (The Turn of Mind); 11.05am (The Turn of Mind); 11.10am (The Turn of Mind); 11.15am (The Turn of Mind); 11.20am (The Turn of Mind); 11.25am (The Turn of Mind); 11.30am (The Turn of Mind); 11.35am (The Turn of Mind); 11.40am (The Turn of Mind); 11.45am (The Turn of Mind); 11.50am (The Turn of Mind); 11.55am (The Turn of Mind); 12.00pm (The Turn of Mind); 12.05pm (The Turn of Mind); 12.10pm (The Turn of Mind); 12.15pm (The Turn of Mind); 12.20pm (The Turn of Mind); 12.25pm (The Turn of Mind); 12.30pm (The Turn of Mind); 12.35pm (The Turn of Mind); 12.40pm (The Turn of Mind); 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# BUSINESS

MONDAY JANUARY 8 1996

**CHANGE OR DIE 38**  
GRAHAM SEARJEANT ON  
A NEW LOOK FOR  
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

## Saatchi's approach on name rejected

Maurice Saatchi has made repeated approaches to Cordiant, the advertising agency formerly known as Saatchi & Saatchi, to win back the Saatchi name.

Mr Saatchi, who with his brother, Charles, runs M&C Saatchi after the acrimonious split with their former agency, has on several occasions made informal inquiries to Cordiant.

Sir Tim Bell, spokesman for Maurice Saatchi, said: "We would like the name back because it is ours." However, Jennifer Laing, the chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, which is Cordiant's UK division, said: "We have received a number of informal approaches but the conversations do not develop very much. The name is not for sale and that is it."

Neither side would put a value on the Saatchi name. It is thought that Maurice Saatchi would offer money or a ceasefire on competition between the two companies as payment.

## Lonrho date

Lonrho, the trading conglomerate, will on Thursday confirm to investors for the first time the possible demerger of its mining operations, which include a stake in Ashanti Goldfields, a strong talking point on the stock market over the past year. Analysts have been looking for a demerger of Lonrho and a sale of some of its constituent parts. One, the Dutton Forshaw car dealership, is known to be for sale.

## Jury to retire

The Maxwell trial jury is expected to retire today when Lord Justice Phillips finishes his summing-up. Kevin and Ian Maxwell, and Larry Trachtenberg, a former Maxwell adviser, deny conspiring to defraud Maxwell pensioners. Jurors will spend the night in a hotel if they fail to reach a verdict.

## Festive spending spree expected to defy pessimists

By SARAH BAGNALL

CHRISTMAS was late as usual this year, but for most retailers, when it finally arrived, it came with a vengeance.

The optimism held by many City analysts is expected to be backed up over the next few weeks by Christmas trading statements from a string of Britain's largest retailers. The Christmas trading period is crucial and in many cases accounts for a substantial chunk of retailers' annual profits.

According to a survey by the Finance & Leasing Association, consumers embarked on a pre-Christmas spending spree in the

high street and on cars. The association found that the use of plastic cards in November shot to £610 million — a 16 per cent leap from last time.

The raft of retailers who this week unveil how they fared over the festive season include Next, Argos, Boots, Dixons, House of Fraser, Sears and Carpetright. The line-up is expected to feature a fair clump of star performers, but not without a few bad shocks from unexpected quarters.

The City harbours a few pessimists, who before Christmas were spreading whispers of concern and prophesying hard times on the high street. The purse-closing combina-

tion of a Budget that failed to lift consumer confidence and one of the warmest autumns on record hardly laid the foundations for a lively Christmas. But as with last year, in the main, the pessimists are likely to be proved wrong.

The star performers are expected to include Argos, Next and Dixons. Analysts have pencilled in double digit sales growth for Argos, the catalogue retail chain that left many of its rivals standing in Christmas 1994 with a staggering 17 per cent leap in sales. On Friday, Argos is expected to reveal a booming trade for toys in the run up to Christmas. Kingfisher, the Woolworths to B&Q group, is also thought to have

notched up strong sales of toys. This would be in sharp contrast to last year, when a combination of mispricing and distribution problems conspired to knock sales.

Their successes are thought to have been at the expense of Toys 'R' Us.

Next, the fashion retailer that surprised even the most fervent of fans last Christmas, is forecast to turn in sales growth of more than 10 per cent. And tales of shop assistants pinned to the walls by hordes of shoppers indicates that Next is enjoying the January sales.

On Wednesday, Dixons announces its interim results together with a trading update that is

expected to reveal a buoyant Christmas trade, particularly in personal computers.

The lame ducks of the retail sector are expected to include House of Fraser and Sears, the British shoe to womenswear group. Shoe sales are particularly prone to weather patterns, and the warm autumn is expected to have taken a heavy toll. As a result, analysts are forecasting a sharp drop in full-year profits.

Sears was yesterday forced to play down mounting speculation that it might pull out of the traditional chains of Saxe and Dicks.

The company has been concentrating efforts on building up new ranges such as Shoe Express, the

self-service budget chain, and Shoe City, the large out-of-town outlets. Sears expanded Shoe Express by about 100 stores last year and analysts see further scope for development. The company's trading update is due on Thursday.

Last January, House of Fraser upset the City with a profit warning as margins suffered as a result of deep discounting on unsold winter clothing. House of Fraser is known to have had a poor 1995 up until the festive season, but a last-minute surge at Christmas may provide the necessary salvation. However, few analysts consider this likely.

Companies, page 35

## Decision day for Granada's Forte bid

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE full board of Granada will meet today to decide the next stage in one of the most tense City takeover battles in recent history, the £3.2 billion hostile onslaught on Forte, the hotelier to caterer.

Full board backing is needed for a higher bid, with observers accepting that Granada's offer at its current level stands no chance of success. But the Forte share price has performed so strongly in the light of a successful defence campaign that a higher offer could severely stretch Granada's finances.

Henry Stanton, Granada's finance director, was giving nothing away last night. He said no firm decision had been reached, although his company is believed to have put in place all the necessary mechanisms for a higher offer. These could include a "dawn raid" on Forte's shares tomorrow morning, the day the Granada board's decision must, under City takeover rules, be announced. If a new offer is

pitched above Forte's closing price on Friday of 345p, Granada can then buy aggressively on the stock market up to 9.9 per cent of Forte's issued share capital.

Mr Stanton insisted yesterday that all the options remained open. These boil down to a refusal to raise the sum on offer, which would be an effective abandonment of the bid, or a higher offer.

The City expects Granada to come back with more cash on the table. At Friday's closing price, the current offer is worth just short of 328p in Granada shares or 321.67p in cash. To stand any chance of success, the offer would have to be raised to somewhere between 360p and 370p. If the board decides to go ahead, this evening will see frantic activity in the City as the directors try to secure underwriting for a higher offer.

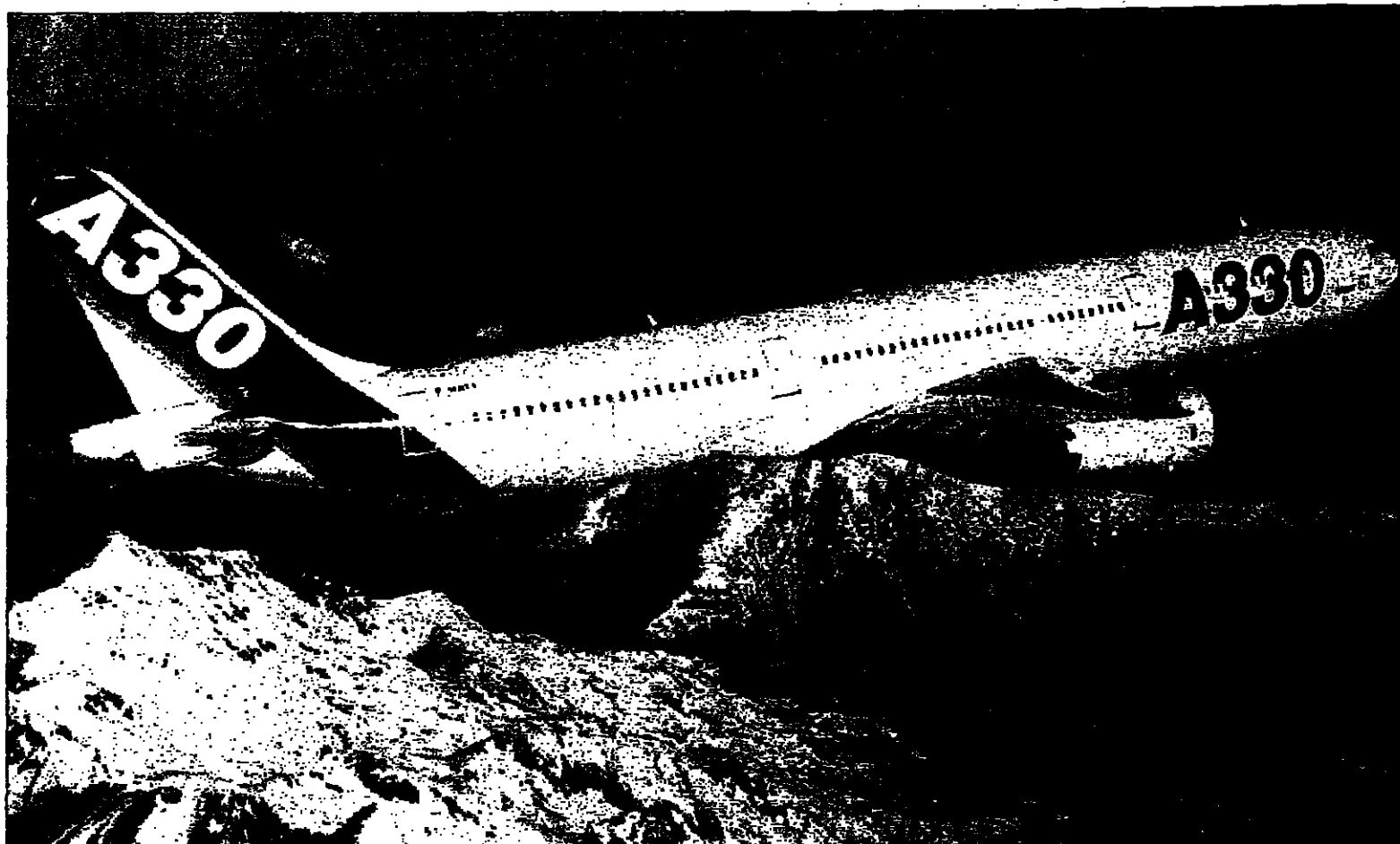
But Granada is already locked in dispute with one independent City source over the proper valuation of Forte. Kleinwort Benson said last week that after the various defensive measures announced by Sir Rocco Forte, the Forte chairman, including disposal to shareholders of its stake in the Savoy Group and an £800 million share buyback, the shares would be worth 367.5p.

Mr Stanton said this was based on information in Forte's defence document, and Granada will be talking to Kleinwort today. Continuing the war of words between the companies, he claimed the Forte document had been "designed to mislead".

Forte's "victory" — "There's some high ground it will be very difficult for them to recapture now," said one insider.

If Granada renews the assault, Forte directors are prepared for another round of meetings to retain the loyalty of its shareholders, both institutional and private. Olga Polizzi, Sir Rocco's sister, is primed to take a strong part in those involving private investors.

Should Granada fail at this fence, it has the option of returning for the roadside and motorway catering businesses of Forte by topping a conditional offer for them of £1.05 billion from Whitbread, the brewer. The company is refusing to discuss this option until the outcome of the bid is known.



Airbus has just delivered ten of its big new A330 twin-jet aircraft to Malaysian Airline System and expects a further contract for as many again

## Airbus takes on Boeing with 40% price cut

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE is offering to cut the price of its \$140 million A330 twin-jets by 40 per cent in a desperate bid to prevent Boeing carrying off one of its most valued customers.

Boeing has been selling some of its smaller craft at prices a quarter less than the cost of production, hoping to cut that cost by the time of delivery, in a move that reflects the often disastrous cut-throat competition in the aircraft-making industry. The big producers

are determined to ensure that their craft are flown by airlines that serve rapidly expanding economies, in particular the "Asian tigers".

Malaysian Airline System (MAS) is believed to have been offered ten or more A330s at just \$70 million each by the European aircraft-makers' consortium, made up of British Aerospace, Aerospatiale of France, Daimler-Benz of Germany and Casa of Spain, industry sources say. The offer

was made after Boeing, the world's leading civil jet builder, launched a price war to try to stem the loss of market share to its European rival.

Plans by MAS to announce an order for 25 new long-haul aircraft, split between Boeing of Seattle and its Toulouse-based rival, were put on hold as the manufacturers chased each other lower.

Boeing is already assured of an order for about ten of its 747 jumbos, at \$160 million each,

because Airbus has new aircraft to match it. Airbus, which has just delivered ten of its big new A330 twin-jets to MAS, expected a contract for as many again, plus perhaps four of its super-long-range A340s.

But industry sources say Boeing has shown an extraordinary determination to secure the entire contract.

Aided by presidential lobbying by Bill Clinton, the American company has already extended its dominance in

sales to Japanese airlines. At the end of last year, Boeing won the lion's share of a crucial contract with Singapore Airlines with an extraordinary offer.

Airbus had been expecting MAS to confirm an order for A330s and A340s on January 4. A spokesman confirmed that MAS was still reviewing the offers and indicated that Airbus would fight to the last for the contract. "It isn't over till the fat lady sings," he said.

## Labour criticises £1m jobs initiative

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is today launching a £1 million initiative aimed at boosting employment. Labour has dismissed the move as a pre-election stunt and an illegitimate use of public money.

Television advertisements that begin running today will emphasise the measures the Government has in place to help people to look for jobs. There will also be a press campaign supported by a telephone hotline and a new version of the Government's Just the Job booklet. Ministers emphasise that the help available for the unemployed includes guaranteed job interviews with employers, coaching in job-hunting techniques and the opportunity of acquiring a vocational qualification. Eric Forth, Education and Employment Minister,

said: "The time has never been more right to find a job. Unemployment is continuing to fall steadily. At the same time, record numbers of job vacancies are being advertised and filled in Jobcentres."

Ministers accept that the TV advertisements are the first time that the Government has advertised the assistance available to jobseekers since before the last election in 1991, but insist there is no electoral link.

Michael Meacher, Labour's shadow Employment Secretary, said it was wrong for the Government "to use taxpayers' money for what are essentially party political purposes".

Mr Forth said: "If we were thinking in electoral terms, I don't think we would be doing it now."

## No golden share for Rail

By MARTIN WALLER

RAILTRACK, the owner of the British Rail network of track, signalling and stations, is expected to be privatised without the normal "golden share" that would protect it from a foreign takeover bid.

Previous state sell-offs have involved such golden shares, held by the Government either in perpetuity, as with British Gas or BT, to protect vital parts of the nation's infrastructure, or for a five-year period.

The electricity industry and most of the water industry were sold with a built-in five-year block on foreign ownership, whose expiry prompted the wave of takeover bids in

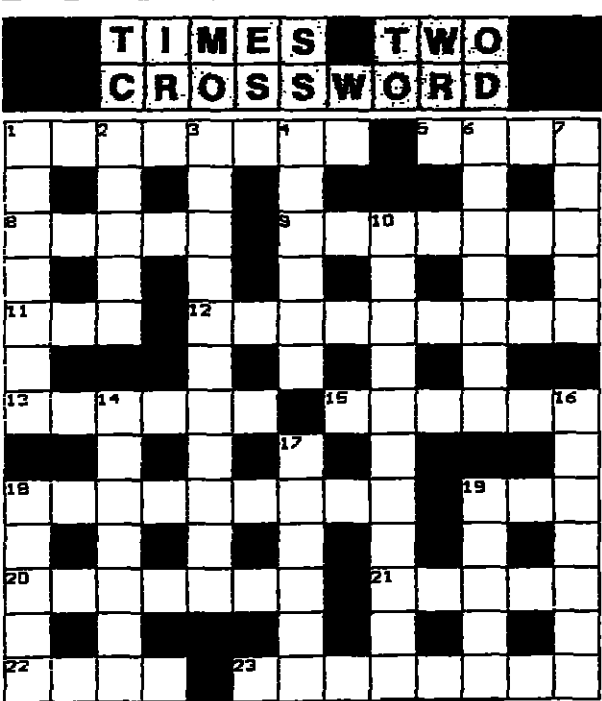
those sectors last year. However, advisers to the Railtrack privatisation are coming to the view that the company needs no such protection, even though final terms of the £15 billion-plus sale are not expected until nearer the May sell-off date.

The water and electricity industries were protected because it was felt that their managements needed time to adjust to the different pressures of being a quoted company. However, because much of the Railtrack board, including its chairman, Bob Horton, have come from outside the industry, advisers do

not think that the company needs such protection.

The decision to drop the golden share is open to an alternative interpretation — that it is designed to boost the price raised from the float by minimising interference in Railtrack's affairs by any future Labour government. Labour has pledged not to renationalise the railways, but a golden share would enable it to ensure that the company did not slip into foreign hands.

Share prices of most quoted utilities have been underpinned recently by prospects of bids from overseas.



No 672

- ACROSS**
- 1 Translate from code (8)
  - 5 Fifty per cent (4)
  - 8 African country, capital (5)
  - 9 Lyre-player, lost Eurydice (7)
  - 11 Advice; end; dump (3)
  - 12 Lopped off short (9)
  - 13 Paying guest (6)
  - 15 Savoury tart (6)
  - 18 Put into trance (9)
  - 19 Make a fuss of (3)
  - 20 Raised writing for blind (7)
  - 21 Pigeon; orderly line (5)
  - 22 (African's) long journey (4)
- DOWN**
- 1 Expressed in numbers (7)
  - 2 A fastener; hold firmly (5)
  - 3 Behave comically (4,3,4)
  - 4 Ten Commandments book (6)
  - 6 Sterile, clean (7)
  - 7 Joined by heat (5)
  - 10 Striking, vividly pretty (11)
  - 14 To corrupt morally (7)
  - 16 Beseech (7)
  - 17 London street bird (6)
  - 18 Costume; custom (5)
  - 19 Perform toilet with one's beak (5)

**SOLUTION TO No 671**

**ACROSS:** 1 Bucket shop 8 Fallout 9 Entail 10 Thaw 11 Prurient 13 Quote 14 Duple 16 Alacrity 17 Sing 20 Glove 21 Elusive 22 Dead weight

**DOWN:** 1 Bell 2 Collaborator 3 Eon 4 Saturn 5 Override 6 Entertaining 7 Virtue 12 Reprieve 13 Quango 15 Attend 18 Guest 19 Mute

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## DANCE

Castanets out at Sadler's Wells, as Corazon Flamenco brings torrid melodrama from Spain  
OPENS: Wednesday  
REVIEW: Friday



## MIME

Companies from around the world gather for London's International Mime Festival  
OPENS: Friday  
REVIEW: Monday



## THEATRE

Bejmanian at the King's Head in Islington is a musical romp through choice poems  
OPENS: Friday  
REVIEW: Monday



## FILM

Paul Verhoeven's *Showgirls* opens in Britain, having been banned in Ireland  
OPENS: Friday  
REVIEW: Thursday

ARTS  
TUESDAY TO  
FRIDAY  
IN SECTION 2

# Circus of the imagination

Benedict Nightingale on the London premiere of a spellbinding new show from Cirque du Soleil

Why quarrel with Elizabeth Taylor, who is quoted in the ads as describing *Saltimbanco* as a "show d'une beauté incroyable"? Indeed, I would go further and say that, if I had to choose between an enormous diamond, one of Miss Taylor's ex-husbands, and a permanent seat at the Cirque du Soleil's ringside, there would be no contest. Only Soleil could be relied on to keep the organs of wonder fully exercised: eyes, ears and the dreamy bits in between.

Everyone should know by now that this Canadian-inspired outfit is different from the circuses of yore. There are no gloomy elephants bowing their knees, no tigers being menaced with chairs; no hyperactive midgeets pouring water over each other, nor, for that matter, any acts that occur in boastful isolation. Instead, the Soleil folk create a complete, imaginative world that acknowledges tradition, seems to reach into the future, yet is ceaselessly busy in the present. Think of a commedia troupe from Andromeda, or a fairytale ruled by a 21st-century Oberon; add sci-fi sounds and sweet airs; and you have some of their quality.

The impression they give from the first is of tourists who have come from outer or inner space to inspect us earthlings and seek our approval. When they come pouring in through the audience with their beaky noses, weird hats and motley

tunics and bodystockings, you almost expect them to start chorusing "take us to your leader". Instead, they chatter away in a lingo that consists largely of amazed squawks and taken-aback chirrups, and launch into the odd experiment on individual spectators.

A little boy is helped to do backward somersaults, a young man's T-shirt whipped off, a pompous-looking gent summarily pushed from his

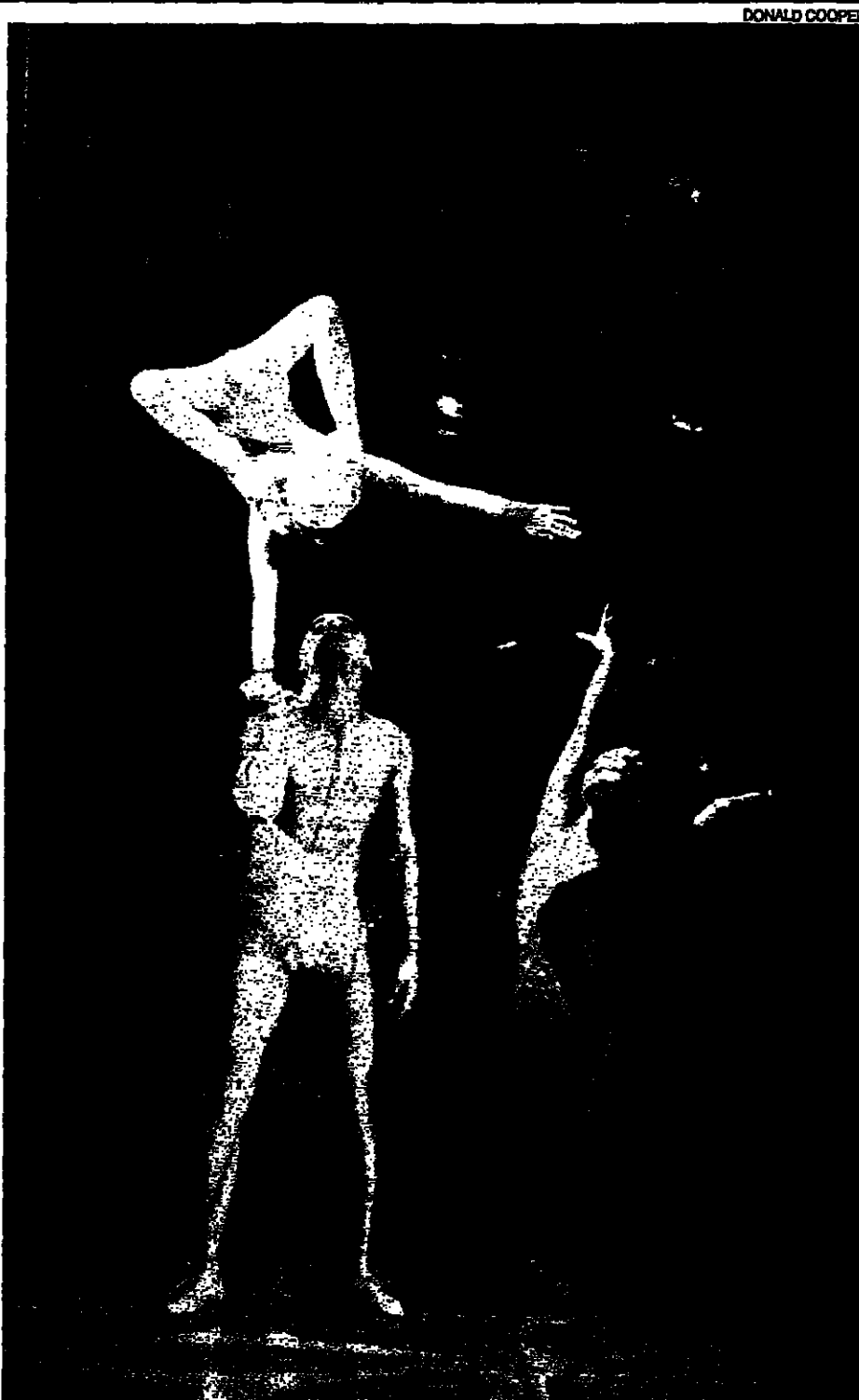
**Saltimbanco**  
Albert Hall

seat: all at the behest of the strangest of ringmasters, a great Mikado in one-piece yellow who stands on a vast stained-glass window placed horizontally at the back of the stage. Soleil may be visiting our galaxy, but it is also sucking us into its own. What follows is and isn't a series of excellent acts. Yes, a woman called Cheng Wei deftly whisks between tightropes and onto the saddle of a unicycle in the sky. Yes, Miguel Herrera juggles with seven white balls, sometimes moving them so fast they look like whirling snowflakes. But the rest of the company are never far away: watching, supporting, and flaunting costumes that embrace an infinite variety of alien chic: hair of wool, wire or feathers, hats that may be boaters, bowlers

or jester's caps with lanterns hanging off them, the odd tail and pair of wings, and gorgeous colours galore.

Because they have arms and legs you are obliged to agree that, whatever their plane or planet of origin, they are not exactly non-human. But some different evolutionary process has given their limbs capacities not known in the Nightingale or I suspect any other Times household. Can William Rees-Mogg twist his wife into a human noose and slide her down his body, and then form a child into a tiny oblong and drop him down his wife? Intellectually, maybe; but surely not in quite the way an all-yellow Anton Tchekhov does with his all-blue spouse and all-white son.

The performers skim up and spin round poles; leap off a giant swing 30 feet in the air and multi-somersault onto a mattress; bounce and whirl to the files on elastic. An incredible Hulk lifts an upside-down Hercules onto his palms, then onto his feet and upwards. Gravity is less defied than flouted by beings who look like anything from gladiators to dragon-lies to the results of a mythic coupling between a parrot and a Mr Blobby. Even the funny-man, Rene Bazinet, is not an earthbound clown, but a goofy, toothy mime with the skill to create a jungle where there is only a bare stage. The old-style circus ignored the imagination. This fills and lifts it. I cannot recommend it too highly.



Cirque du Soleil "may be visiting our galaxy, but it is also sucking us into its own"

## New talent starts on a high note

Angelika Kirchschlager  
Wigmore Hall

SHE is poised for *Rosenkavalier* and *Figaro* in Vienna, for the Schubertiade in Feldkirch and for *Idomeneo*, with Domingos, in 1997, but when Angelika Kirchschlager gave her debut recital as one of the Wigmore Hall's Young Mastersingers, few in London knew quite what to expect.

The Salzburg-born mezzo-soprano's five introductory folk songs by Brahms were ideally chosen: they uncovered a natural voice already animated by quick-witted musical and verbal perception.

For Schumann's *Maria Stuart Lieder*, the dark underside of her mezzo-soprano cast its shadow on the long vowels of the *Farewell to France*, pressing forward in urgent pleading prayer and containing with calm dignity the inner intensity of her *Farewell to the World*.

And then Schubert. Songs like *Am Bach im Frühling* and *Fischerweiser* seemed to sing themselves, so supple was the voice, so quick the musical intelligence. Yet *Der Zwerg* was a powerfully stage-managed double-act with pianist Helmut Deutsch.

Kirchschlager is a keen champion of the music of Erich Korngold, whose lyrical gift and versatility are well shown in the *Five Songs Op 38* of 1947. Kirchschlager relished the broad, voluptuous melody of *Glückwunsch* as readily as the armada-shots of the *Old English Song* and the wayward rhapsody of a German-language version of Shakespeare's *My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun*.

Hugo Wolf is clearly also close to Kirchschlager's heart, as five vividly animated songs from the *Italianisches Liederbuch* showed. Again, with Deutsch's acutely observed accompanying, her *Gypsy Woman* and *Noble Warrior* inhabited their miniature dramas with the sense of style and of bright-eyed communication which augur so well for this singer's future.

HILARY FINCH

## Medieval magic

New London  
Consort  
Purcell Room

EVEN listeners reasonably familiar with medieval music must have been startled by the feast served up here. In the late 14th century a bumper collection of musical revolutionaries — the Stockhausens of their day — gathered in the courts of northern Italy and southern France, and particularly around the papal court at Avignon. Nobody really knows why.

Their "ars subtilior" — literally, subtle art — is astonishing even to our "heard it all" ears. Typically, a three-part chanson will spin off into a seemingly unbridled display of rhythmic and melodic complexity, with little apparent relationship between the individual voices until the final cadences. The demands made on the performers' concentration and technique is formidable. But still more astonishing is the way in which these flamboyant flourishes of contrapuntal virtuosity stretch the "rules" of medieval music to the point where they can encompass the most convoluted syncopations or shuddering harmonic switches.

The texts are often equally subtle: sophisticated conceits drawing delicate parallels between love, death and the changing seasons. Several make pointed references to birds, allowing the composers (the best-known being Mathieu de Perusia) to take the voice on wild vocal cartwheels in imitation of nightingales or larks. Catherine Bott's singing was heroic and mesmerising; but the playing from the Consort (two lutes, recorder, fiddle) was no less exemplary.

So was their boldness in exhuming this exotic and tangled array. Such a programme reminds us that the tension in late 20th-century musical life between the avant-garde complexity of the Birtwistle school and the "new simplicity" of the minimalists would have been well understood 600 years ago.

RICHARD MORRISON

## Another noisy night in gangsta paradise

The perceived apathy shown by the British pop fan towards the American phenomenon of gangsta rap did not necessarily end when Coolio's *Gangsta's Paradise* soared to No 1 here last October. For all the brooding power of the West Coast rapper's spoken word, the record's sharpest hook came courtesy of a certain old-fashioned Motown tunesmith named Stevie Wonder.

The man who supplied the unmissable vocals for *Gangsta's Paradise*, an updated version of Wonder's *Pastime Paradise*, was

L.V., who graced the Grand stage in a brief warm-up as Coolio began his European tour. Previewing his own album's release next month, L.V. revealed some surprisingly traditional soul tendencies. He covered Alexander O'Neal's *If You Were Here Tonight* before giving us his recent, solo chart entry *Throw Your Hands Up*.

Coolio, for all his sudden escalation to fame with the song reported to be the bestselling single in the world last year, is no one-bit wonder. The man who rapped his way out of the

Coolio/L.V.  
Grand, SW11

mean streets of the Compton district of Los Angeles had America's twentieth biggest single of 1994, with *Fantastic Voyage*, the shape of samples to come in that it combined his verbal attack with a cleverly chosen, easily remembered soul motif.

But since Coolio is now the man who took gangsta rap on to breakfast television, there were more than a few blank faces at the Grand when the majority of his set consisted of all the verbal aggression of his chart-topper and not much of the melodic sweetener.

Appearing with a full band including three other rappers, he dropped one verbal bomb after another in a trade of organised shouting. Respite came when he invited audience members on to the stage to add some rhymes of their own, but the sledge-

hammer was back in action for a well-meant but maladroit sermon about AIDS.

The new single, *Too Hot*, with the Kool and the Gang song of the same name as its backbone, was another exercise in unwashed appropriation, and L.V. reappeared for an exultant *Gangsta's Paradise*. Most of the remainder was fine for committed gangsters and their molls, but a little acidic to more mainstream tastes.

PAUL SEXTON

## From Seville to Surbiton

Carmen  
Barbican

Travelling Opera is what it says it is, a peripatetic group taking performances to theatres large and small around the country. Officially ten years old, it is now well-established, but has been in operation for longer than that under the aegis of its founder, Peter Knapp, and under various names. Knapp sings, conducts, translates, adapts, directs, and indulges in no false modesty in his programme notes. The company launched its latest nine-centre tour on Thursday with a revival of Knapp's three-year-old production of *Carmen* at the Barbican.

Performing Bizet's opera with a cast of only 14 necessitates radical changes; cuts, re-ordering and some ugly spatchcocking in the third act reduce the running time to around two hours. Balance had not quite been sorted out on the first night (there was, I think, some discreet "sound enhancement" at work), so it is difficult to judge Knapp's translation, and phoney Spanish accents that came and went were no aid to comprehension.

As for the production itself, well, Peter Brook need lose no sleep: it was limited largely to telling people where to stand, and devising brazen flourishes for the girls, village-hall masochism gestures for the boys and a great deal too much *thubarb*. The characters remained undefined save at the most basic level — Carmen a tart, José a wimp — and there was an inescapable feel of Home Counties to the evening, Surbiton rather than Seville.

What made it not just bearable but actually rather enjoyable was the playing and

singing. The conductor Roderick Dunk showed an instinctive feel for the music, shaping the tunes with real insight, and the playing of the 12-strong chamber orchestra was consistently well shaded and nuanced (Richard Balcombe's reconstruction is properly faithful to the spirit of Bizet). With Dunk in charge, audiences on the tour will readily understand the reasons for *Carmen*'s eternal appeal.

And there is appealing singing from fresh young voices. Janet Mooney's mezzo is firm-toned, warm and with a resolute edge when needed in the finale, and she phrased her hit numbers very seductively. Mark Luther (José) is a light lyric tenor and doesn't pretend to be anything else; the loudest note he sang all evening was, unfortunately, the soft B flat at the end of his sensitive account of the Flower Song, but never mind — he is a careful and musical singer. Talitha Theobald's bright, cleanly defined Micaëla gave consistent pleasure. If there were one or two examples of the Art of Coarse Opera Singing lower down the cast, Diana McNeill's bruity Mercedes aimed and achieved higher than that. The energy and commitment of all were beyond reproach. On its own terms and purely musically, this touring *Carmen* has a lot going for it.

RODNEY MILNES

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

### WAGNER'S TANNHAUSER

Reviewed by John Warrack

In 1883, the last year of his life, Wagner was still considering doing something about *Tannhäuser*, the opera he first produced in Dresden in 1845 and then revised for Paris in 1861. The story is more complicated than that, but one can accept a "Dresden" version, and a "Paris" version that confuses matters by adding, to suit local convention, the Venusberg ballet.

The earliest of all recordings goes back to 1930 Bayreuth and Wagner's son Siegfried, who approved the project just before his death. Reissued on Pearl (GEMM CDS 9941), it has some splendid singing from Maria Müller as Elisabeth, but must remain a specialist's version. Karl Elmendorff conducts.

The other versions divide into "Dresden" and "Paris", with Wolfgang Sawallisch making a compromise on Philips (434 607-2) for Bayreuth in 1962. He has Wolfgang Windgassen, the leading heldentenor of his day; a magnificently sensual Grace Bumbry as Venus and the young and appealing Anja Silja's Elisabeth.

Both "Dresden" versions come from EMI. Franz Konwitschny has Hans Hopf in the title role, with Marianne Schech and Elisabeth Grümmer as Venus and Elisabeth (CMS 7 63214-2). A rather mediocre recording does not help to give this preference over the version conducted by Bernard Haitink — a finely controlled performance if not



of the grandeur that has since distinguished his Wagner. But it has Lucia Popp brightly contesting the allure of Waltraud Meier's Venus for Klaus König's only moderately appealing Tannhäuser (CDS 7 47296-3).

All the same, that is the version for strict "Dresden" collectors. Anyone else is directed towards Paris. Here, for DGG (427 625-2), Giuseppe Sinopoli has the cachet of Plácido Domingo in the title role. But, despite the famed elegance of voice, this is not one of Domingo's greatest operatic interpretations. There is, though, an alluring Wagner in Agnes Baltsa, and in Cheryl Studer the finest of all Elisabeths. Domingo's fans will give this pride of place, but there is a stronger case for the 1971 Georg Solti recording for Decca (414 381-2, £36.99). René Kollo understands the music better than Domingo, and is far more moving. Helga Dernesch is a stately Elisabeth; her rival is the formidably sexy Venus of Christa Ludwig. Although he can tend to treat excitement as the prime musical virtue, Solti draws wonderful playing from the Vienna Philharmonic.

Recommended recordings can be ordered from The Times CD Mail, 20 Pall Mall, London W10 6BL (freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: [btid@mail.bogo.co.uk](mailto:btid@mail.bogo.co.uk))  
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## Starting today: A four-part series looking at every aspect of ageing...

■ For centuries, scientists have pondered the question of ageing and searched for an elixir of youth. This week in *The Times* we ask if you really can turn back the clock.

■ Today we explore genetics and ageing, examine the theory that large babies live longer, and see what keeps people feeling young. Below, **Jane Gordon** tells of the day she realised she was no longer young



TOMORROW

- The importance of free radicals and nutrition, by Nigel Hawkes
- Foods to keep you young, by Rita Carter
- Alan Coren tells the truth about men growing older
- Dr Thomas Stuttaford advises men on how to keep their sex lives young

# How Dominic from the Love Shack made me feel my age



Jane Gordon aged 23, long before the onset of gravity

### THE OLDER WOMAN'S TALE

I was 16-year-old Dominic Sharland who finally made me understand what people meant when they talked about "looking like a demon in the eye". It was one of those hot, hot days last summer and Dominic was sitting in our garage talking to my daughter and a group of their friends. The floor of the graffiti-covered Love Shack (as the garage had become known) was littered with empty cans of beer and abandoned packets of cigarettes. Thousands, maybe millions, of teenage hormones hung in the air around them like particles of dust.

It might seem ridiculous to say that the short journey through that garage to our

back door became for me the rite of passage between youth and middle age, but the 20 yards I walked, carrying six Sainsbury's carrier bags and a couple of stone in extra weight, made me realise that I was no longer, well, young.

I can't remember exactly what it was that Dominic said, but I know that the way in which this perfect specimen of emergent manhood, this vision from a Levis ad, said my name — not "Jane" but "Mrs Gordon" — projected me into a mid-life panic.

For the first time I found myself seriously considering a cliché that, heaven knows, I had heard often enough in my own blushing youth: "If only I were 20 years younger..."

Later that day I confided to a friend how awful I had found the spectre of Dominic looking at me — or rather through me — as if I were the invisible middle-aged woman.

"Oh no," he said, in a placatory tone. "I'm sure the boys don't see you like that. I'm sure they see you more as a Mrs Robinson figure..." Which somehow compounded my distress. In my head, although long since out of the sexual fray, I still saw myself in the role of juvenile lead rather than that of the bitter, unfulfilled older woman.

In the bright blue eyes of Dominic I might be a sad old wrinkle, but I still saw myself, until that particular day, as I had been 20 years before.

Of course, there had been the occasional indication that every woman's enemy, gravity, had caught up with me. In both mind and body I was not as amusing as I had once been. I had started to tut-tut at youth cult television series such as *Bottom*, and I had begun to buy "comfortable" clothes in stretch elastic rather than in figure-hugging Lycra.

Then there were those other irritating little signs of the spiral towards death — green-grocers calling me "love" rather than "darling", backache, falling asleep reading my youngest child his bedtime story, voting for the Liberal Democrats in the last election, not being able to read the

I was shocked into a frantic, and sometimes tragic, five-month search for the elixir of youth

maps in the A-Z or the microwave instructions on the M&S ready-made meals, and finding myself — once the scourge of the highways — driving a Volvo estate car in the slow lane, listening to *Sounds of the Seventies* compilation tapes.

But it took Dominic to shock me into a frantic — and at times tragic — five-month period in which I was to search relentlessly for the elixir of youth. It took Dominic to make me realise that when it came to ageing, to "looking like a demon in the eye", I was, as they say, in denial.

A week after the Love Shack incident, I enrolled in one of those slimming clubs that are for the overweight and middle-aged, rather like five-step programmes for alcoholics. Standing up among a group of women in similar circumstances and saying: "My name is Mrs Gordon and I am a fat, middle-aged person" did give me a little comfort, even if the other women reminded me, even more soundly, of the enormity of my mission.

A stern and manly woman lectured us all in evangelistic tones about what she called her "loser-friendly weight-loss regime". "Mind over platter," she would say as she eyed our bulging bodies.

My mid-life urge to recapture my lost youth was not limited merely to diet. I found myself scanning the shelves of health shops for pills and potions that could accelerate my rejuvenation. I took Royal Jelly, infusions of ginseng, spoonfuls of vitamin E supplement and shovels of something I cannot pronounce (or spell) that came from the bark of trees found in Central



Jane Gordon now: "If teenagers still see me as an old wrinkle, at least I am a contented one"

America. But still there were no visible changes, no evidence that I had arrested my decline and fall.

My concern with ageing turned into an obsession. I bought a magnifying mirror and tortured myself looking at the creeping signs of age — the little lines, the open pores, the pockets of flesh that had settled on my cheekbones. I spent hours reading beauty magazines searching for the latest anti-ageing technology. I became an authority on enzymes, elastins, antioxidants, AHAs and Retin A.

There was, of course, a price to pay for this dreadful self-absorption. The vast resources of the cosmetic industry had seen me coming. Estée Lauder had come up with an "instantly gratifying" under-eye cream. Lancôme promised me that in just eight days I could have "visibly rejuvenated skin", and Yves Saint Laurent — at £30 for a small tube of a creamy gel — offered me an "instant facelift" that left me, on the one evening I tried it, unable to move my mouth to smile, talk or eat.

To be fair, there was a slight

improvement. "Don't tell me," a friend said one day over lunch. "You're on that HRT, aren't you?"

Slowly, I began to see small signs of rejuvenation. Well, signs that I might temporarily be able to hold back the sands of time.

At one of my slimming club meetings, some three months after the moment of truth in the Love Shack, I stood up and realised that although I was still mouthing the required words "My name is Mrs Gordon and I am a fat, middle-aged person", they were no longer entirely true. I had, through masochistic self-application, cured one of my addictions. I was now just a regular-sized middle-aged person.

And although I knew by then that recapturing the youth I had only just realised I had lost was an impossibility, the process of searching for it had, in its way, had a curative effect.

For at some point during my relentless search for self-improvement, my husband, who

had stuck stoically by me through thick and thin, suddenly noticed that, in fact, I had gone from thick to thin and admitted that he rather liked the results. Romance, long lost from our frantic family life, returned.

But I didn't realise that I had come to terms with the ageing process until, one cold Saturday afternoon in early December, with the Love Shack closed for the winter, I walked into the kitchen to find Dominic and a dozen other teenagers littered round the rooms.

"Oh, Mrs Gordon," he said as I bent down in my new size 10 jeans and placed my shopping bags on the floor. "You look well..."

I stood up and looked the demon in his bright blue eyes and it was all right. I knew that he still saw me as a sad old wrinkle, but the crucial difference was that now I saw myself as a rather contented old wrinkle.

I didn't even mind when I heard him say, as I left the room and went upstairs: "She must have been quite attractive when she was young..."

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# Healthy genes matter more than a healthy body

**D**oes the secret of long life lie in our genes? Scientists broadly agree that it does, but are not sure exactly how much of a blessing or burden our parents are.

"Lifespan depends to a large extent on heredity," according to the *British Medical Association Complete Family Health Encyclopaedia*. Professor Tom Kirkwood from Manchester University, a leading researcher in the hunt for the genes which influence ageing, is more cautious. "There is an inherited factor, but the degree is quite small... parents need to live a very long time for it to make much difference," he says.

That genes are involved at all is beyond scientific doubt. Researchers such as Professor Kirkwood, who is looking into the biological causes of ageing, cite evidence that those who reach a ripe old age are more likely to have long-lived parents. Quantifying this is quite tricky, but various studies put the fraction of longevity passing down to the next generation at about 20 per cent. So, if each of your parents lived 25 years longer than expected, you would stand to gain an extra five years.

Secondly, a genetic defect can give rise to premature ageing, implying a genetic component for the process of ageing. Those with the most well-known condition, Werner's syndrome, begin to age as adolescents. They lose their hair and teeth and become susceptible to diseases associated with the elderly, such as cataracts and arthritis.

Werner's syndrome may be linked to abnormally fast cell division. As cells divide, telomeres — DNA sequences found at the end of chromosomes — shrink. One theory still in its early stages but already attracting massive hype and big investment from excited ageing millionaires is that, by manipulating telomere length, we can halt the malfunctioning of cells that lead to ageing.

However, Professor Kirkwood issued a note of caution to elderly millionaires hoping to live forever. "The telomere work is only one of a spectrum of mechanisms involved in the ageing of dividing cells. Also, non-dividing cells such as brain cells are equally important to ageing."

**T**hirdly, lifespan varies according to species, suggesting that similar patterns of gene inheritance give members of the same species comparable lifespans.

It is the sphere of influence of the genetic connection that is a matter of debate. "There are also non-genetic influences such as lifestyle, diet and environment," says Professor Kirkwood.

The balance between these factors is unknown and probably differs between people — after all, many centenarians attribute their longevity to smoking, drinking and ignoring medical advice. Indeed, certain personality traits, some of which may have

## THE GENE CONNECTION



The key to longevity may be a gift from your parents

genetic roots, might well be a key to their survival.

John Grimley Evans, Professor of Clinical Gerontology at Oxford University, in a report by the Medical Research Council said that cantankerous and wilful souls were more likely to live longer than milder mannered people. The genetic fraction of the ageing equation is not likely to be one gene. "We expect at least tens of genes to be involved," says Professor Kirkwood. "These might be hierarchical, so that some are more important than others. But many genes are involved in health and disease, all of which might contribute to the overall ageing process."

An unlikely spur for research into the genetic causes of ageing has come from an obscure worm known as *C. elegans*. The genetic blueprint, or genome, of this 1mm-long worm is still being unravelled, but researchers have already found six genes which seem to affect ageing. "Mutating these genes increases the lifespan by up to four times," says Dr Gordon Lithgow, a colleague of Professor Kirkwood's at Manchester University.

However, even in a biological system as simple as this

worm, which normally lives for about 20 days, the effects of these genes are complex. Dr Lithgow explains: "Two of those genes act in a very odd way. Changing one on its own can double lifespan, and changing the other on its own has no effect whatsoever. But mutating both makes the worms live four times longer than expected."

Dr Lithgow was surprised but not bowled over. "If it were a tenfold difference, then I would be impressed."

The unexpected twist is that mutating a gene knocks it out of action, or at least damages its ability to do whatever it is supposed to do. This implies that the six genes (researchers suspect there are others) connected with extending the worm's lifespan are all suppressors of some sort. The genetically changed worms were found to be more resistant to stressful conditions, such as hot environments and ultraviolet radiation. This could be the key.

Could human beings possess similar "negative" genes which could be put out of action? "Similar genes do exist in humans but will not do the same thing when mutated," says Dr Lithgow, who adds

that human beings possess ten times the DNA of this worm and are therefore much more complex. The Manchester researchers do, however, think that the worm research has given them an important clue.

Dr Lithgow points out that the seemingly beneficial mutations are not without side-effects: "Changing one of the genes renders the worm incapable of producing sperm, so although it can live longer it cannot reproduce."

This is a neat illustration of Professor Kirkwood's theory of human ageing, which is based on evolution. Darwin's theory of evolution is, famously, about the survival of the fittest. Professor Kirkwood has worked out that reaching maximum "fitness" requires a certain investment of energy in repairing damaged cells as they are produced. But our genes must survive, which means we must breed. Therefore we cannot waste too much energy on elaborate biological defences because we must preserve some to reach adulthood and start reproducing.

**B**ut this trade-off between living and breeding — seen in the spermless worm — goes against the Darwinian theory of evolution. The only way we can achieve immortality is through our genes, and Professor Kirkwood suggests we are sacrificed in order that our genes can continue.

This theory seems promising because scientific evidence appears to fit many of its predictions. Healthy genes are more important than a healthy body, and long-lived organisms, such as human beings and primates, have better cell maintenance systems than short-lived ones.

To test his theory, Professor Kirkwood is concentrating on identifying the genes which underlie the maintenance and repair of the body's cells, particularly in the production of proteins.

Proteins get damaged in the normal chemistry of living, by free radicals and incorrect processing in the body," he says. Proteins also need to be folded into shape, and this biological origami is not always flawless.

Another source of protein damage comes as our cells continually renew themselves by dividing. Each new cell contains a photocopy of the individual's genetic code, which holds the instructions for the manufacture of the proteins. In the average human being, 100 billion cells (equivalent to about two-thirds of the total number of cells in the body) divide each day, so there is potential for this replication to go awry.

Although most problems are rectified, a few will slip through the net and become permanent mutations. Professor Kirkwood thinks that finding out why some faults are not repaired — and then patching them up — might be the key to adding an extra decade or two to human life.

ANJANA AHUJA



Low weight, a poor diet and cigarettes in pregnancy may lead to a baby with diabetes and heart disease in later life

## Big babies have a longer life

### PREGNANCY PRECAUTION

JACK, a patient of mine, is only 49, but he already has high blood pressure, diabetes and coronary heart disease. Unusually, none of the well-known risk factors for these conditions applies to him. He follows an exemplary diet — low in calories, salt and saturated fats, and high in vitamins and fibre. He has never smoked. Until his angina was diagnosed he took a brisk three-mile walk every day. His parents both lived to 84. He is not from an ethnic group with a predisposition to diabetes or heart disease (such as South Asians).

"What have I done wrong?" Jack asked me the other day. The explanation probably lies in Jack's early childhood, in the months before he was born, and even, some experts now think, in the weeks before he was conceived. Jack was a victory baby, born in a northern industrial town just

after the end of the Second World War, into a family of three children.

Jack was not a premature baby, but he weighed only 5lb at birth. At one year, he was still being taken to the clinic to be weighed every week because he had gained so little. But after he turned ten, he began to grow tubby. He is now a rather Pickwickian figure — short in stature, round in face and full in girth.

Several characteristics of Jack's mother (thin build, low weight gain during pregnancy, anaemia, repetitive and poor-quality diet, and smoking) of Jack himself (low birth weight after adjusting for prematurity, poor weight gain in the first year of life, and bottle feeding), and of the overall family environment in his early childhood (cramped,

damp housing, and several closely spaced siblings), are now known to be associated with an increased risk of three of the West's major killers: high blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease.

WHAT, if anything, can today's mothers do to ensure that the odds of cardiovascular disease are not loaded against their sons and daughters even before they have entered the world?

First and foremost, they should give up smoking and persuade their partner to do so too. Since both active and passive smoking by the mother will reduce the weight of the baby, it is known that big babies have a longer life. Secondly, they should keep their alcohol intake to below one drink a day — even

(especially in the early days when they are not sure whether they are pregnant or not).

Thirdly, they should ensure that they do not embark upon a pregnancy if they are underweight. Blood pressure in children (which correlates with blood pressure and heart disease risk in adults) has been shown to be inversely related to the mother's skinfold thickness (a measure of body fat) in the early weeks of pregnancy.

Pregnant women need to pay careful attention to the quality of their diet. Research in this country has shown that the diet of women from poor backgrounds who give birth to small babies is adequate in calories, but is relatively lacking in vitamins A, B-complex and C, as well as in protein, folic acid, iron and calcium.

DR TRISHA GREENHALGH

## Scientists discover a test for ageing

**W**HY IS IT that some of us age quickly, showing early signs of physical decline, while others stay young longer? Scientists think they may have found a test for ageing that will show who will grow old quickly by measuring the level of a chemical, glutathione, in the blood. *Jeremy Lawrence writes.*

Glutathione is known to protect the body against toxins that have destructive effects on the cells. Correcting a deficiency of the chemical in mosquitoes increases their lifespan by 40 per cent.

Research has shown that glutathione levels decline with age but are highest in the over-80s, suggesting

that high levels are associated with long life. A US study showed that people with the highest levels of glutathione had lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol, were less likely to be overweight and rated themselves as healthier. Those with chronic conditions such as heart disease, arthritis and diabetes had lower levels.

Scientists believe that glutathione reserves may become depleted in people who expose themselves to noxious substances such as tobacco smoke or a high-fat diet, reducing their capacity to fight disease. So identifying those who will age fastest could help them to take evasive action.

## How love, security and a stress-free day keep the years at bay



Age is no barrier to energy: Audrey Hepburn and Fred Astaire in *Funny Face*

**T**hey have a lively sex life and a loving relationship with a much younger partner. They take plenty of gentle exercise, have lots of hobbies, are more likely to be vegetarians and refuse to suffer stress. These are the "superyoung", a group of paragons who, as if they were not irritating enough already, also look and feel years younger than their actual age.

This group of bright-eyed, smooth-skinned, bushy-haired and hyper-energetic people have, for the past eight years, been the subject of a study by Dr David Weeks, a clinical neuropsychologist at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

Dr Weeks has studied the lifestyles of 3,500 people aged between 20 and 101, who contacted him after he advertised in the media for subjects who looked considerably younger than their age. They sent in photographs which were judged by an independent panel, who agreed that these people looked, on average, 12 to 14 years younger than their actual age.

The aim of the study is to look at the connection between

age and ill-health and to discover whether the ageing process is based on environmental or hereditary factors.

So far, Dr Weeks has discovered five or six factors that the superyoung have in common. Sadly, however, none of the recipes for youthfulness can be had on prescription. Eternal youth, it seems, is genetically programmed.

What is more, youth tends to be a bonus granted to those who are already happy and fulfilled. "These people tend to have a vigorous and robust sex life," he says. "Most make love more than twice a week. But the quantity isn't as important as the quality of the relationship. These people empathise with their partners and really trust them."

But which came first, the youthful looks or the happy relationships? According to Dr Weeks, the relationships. "These give them a great sense of security and act as a buffer to any stressful problems they have had in their lives."

Avoiding stress, it seems, is

a major factor for aspiring Dorian Greys. "Our study of women in their forties showed just how sensitive people can be to chronic stress. Women who were suffering from anxiety began to look older in a matter of months. But if they were able to solve their problem, they soon looked younger."

The superyoung are particularly adept at stress avoidance. "They devised various schemes for avoiding what they called the wrong kind of stress, kinds that could be very easily converted into anger."

For instance, if they were working with someone who made them feel hostile, then they tried to avoid them, rather than confront them.

All these people tend to be heavy types with a variety of hobbies and enthusiasms. "They had a degree of curiosity and a fairly good sense of fun and humour," says Dr Weeks, who has also written a study of eccentrics. He discovered that people who refused to violate their ideals and conform were healthier and happier than those who cared about other people's opinions.

There are some things, however, that the determinedly misanthropic can do to keep up with this smug bunch. The superyoung, Dr Weeks says, keep out of the sun, don't smoke, eat a well-balanced diet (they are slightly more likely to be vegetarians than the average) and, most importantly, take exercise.

"This doesn't have to be very vigorous," Dr Weeks says. "We are not talking about Jane Fonda workouts but some-

thing equivalent to three 20-minute brisk walks a week. Most of these people began their physical activity in their late teens or early twenties, quite often by chance, because, for example, they found themselves living in a rural area without transport, and so walked more frequently."

People who exercised obsessively shared more traits with workaholics who, according to Dr Weeks, never look younger than they are.

"None of the women used a special moisturiser, although a few said they used plain olive oil," Dr Weeks says. Many women had received hormone replacement therapy and raved about the benefits. "The women we spoke to were almost unanimous in singing its praises."

To some, the list will be undoubtedly disappointing. As Oscar Wilde said: "To win back my youth... there is nothing I wouldn't do — except take exercise, get up early, or be a useful member of the community."

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

### HEALTH OFFER

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Page 36



Obesity gene □ Noisy planet □ Crop protector

## Fighting the flab

THE BATTLE of the bulge has entered a new and possibly decisive phase with the news, in the journal *Cell*, that scientists at Millennium Pharmaceuticals and Hoffman-La Roche have cloned a gene that could be responsible for obesity.

A year ago, scientists at Rockefeller University identified the gene, known as *ob*, in an obese strain of mice, and the hormone it is responsible for producing, called leptin. The latter circulates in the bloodstream and carries information to the brain about the body's fat levels. Mice without leptin do not receive the signal, and so go on eating until they are twice the size of ordinary mice.

The problem is that obese human beings, rather than being short of leptin, appear to have too much of it, but still eat more than they need. So increasing leptin levels in such people by injecting the hormone is unlikely to have any effect.

Attention, therefore, switched to other possible reasons why the message wasn't getting through. For any chemical messenger to deliver its signal it must lock on to an appropriate receptor on the surface of the cells, like a plug fitting into a socket. Perhaps it was not leptin, but the leptin receptor, that was absent in obese people?

For that, another obese mouse provided the model. This is a breed called *db* because it is prone to a form of diabetes and also gets



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

very fat. In the *Cell* paper, Dr Louis Tartaglia and colleagues report that they have taken material from a region of the brain called the choroid plexus in these mice and found that it binds with leptin.

They then screened a series of gene products from this part of the brain with leptin to identify the gene responsible for producing the receptor. They found, interestingly, that it lies on the same chromosome as the *ob* gene and appears to be remarkably close to it.

The implication is that the two are the same, which would mean that *db* mice are fat, and perhaps diabetic too, because they lack the leptin receptor. Millennium has reason to hope that the same will apply to obese people, and to who suffer the type of diabetes known as type II or age-onset.

The company's chief executive officer, Mark Levin, says that Millennium is now working with Roche to develop orally active drugs to treat obesity caused by leptin resistance. "We believe this type of product should have a wider range of use than leptin-based drugs."

But this is unlikely to be the last word on the genetics of obesity. It is probable that the pathway used by leptin to deliver its signal has other key elements which may be lacking in some individuals. And nobody has yet shown that leptin resistance is the real reason for obesity in human beings.

## Satellite listens in to life on Earth

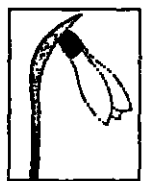


THERE IS intelligent life on Earth, or enough evidence of it, to convince aliens, the US space agency Nasa has concluded. A year ago Nasa launched a satellite called Wind to monitor solar wind, a stream of charged particles emitted by the Sun. However, one of the detectors on board is sensitive to shortwave bands and regularly picked up radio signals from Earth, including a burst that could be attributed to the BBC.

But Michael Kaiser, of the Nasa-Goddard Space Flight Centre, told *Sky and Telescope* magazine that the satellite could pick up these signals only if it were well within the solar system. So the notion that the first alien would hear of us would be the cricket scores on the World Service is dashed.

The loudest man-made signals, which carry many light years into interstellar space, are not benign radio broadcasts, but the output of powerful phased-array radars designed to detect ballistic missiles. Any alien intelligent enough to identify those would get a good idea of what kind of creature inhabits the Earth.

## Snowdrop protein repels aphid attack



THE SNOWDROP packs a punch that will soon be used to protect commercial crops against aphids. Two Belgian scientists, Willy Peumans and Els Van Damme, from the Catholic University of Leuven, have found that snowdrops produce a protein that makes them very unattractive to a range of sap-sucking insects.

The two isolated the gene responsible, which is now being introduced into other plants by the Cambridge-based company, Axis Genetics. Potatoes given the gene have proved resistant to the potato glasshouse aphid. The US Department of Agriculture now plans to try it against an aphid which attacks wheat.

The beauty of the gene is that it does not produce a poison, to which the aphids might quickly become immune, but a protein that appears to work by repelling them. This, Axis hopes, will make the development of resistance less likely.

The most noticeable effect was that aphids on the genetically engineered plants produced far fewer young.



"Rambo" the sheep with Dr Kim Tan, who believes that producing monoclonal antibodies from sheep promises more effective treatments

## Flocking to the rescue

A flock of sheep is helping to target anti-cancer drugs, as Nigel Hawkes discovers

antibodies would be those that recognise and bind to specific proteins that are found on the surface of cancers, but nowhere else.

Ingenious as it is, this strategy has also had limited success. The news is not all negative: an antibody that recognises a cell-surface protein in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a common cancer, has been used with some success to ferry atoms of radioactive iodine-131 to the tumours.

Dr Oliver Press, of the University of Washington in Seattle, has reported that in 19 patients for whom conventional drugs had failed, the "magic bullet" treatment had removed all sign of the disease in 16.

Unfortunately, the proteins towards which the antibodies make a beeline are not always found only on the cancers. Sometimes they are on normal cells, sometimes they may be released and floating free. This means that the antibody-directed drugs can cause a lot of collateral damage.

Professor Kenneth Bagshawe, of Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School in London, came up with an even more ingenious strategy. Instead of delivering a drug to the cancer, Professor Bagshawe's ADEPT system delivers an enzyme. (ADEPT stands for antibody-directed enzyme pro-drug therapy.)

The idea is to carry the enzyme to the tumour, and use the antibody to bind it to the target protein. Then, a couple of days later, a harmless "pro-drug" is injected into the patient. The enzyme breaks down the pro-drug to create an active drug, but only at the site where the enzyme is bound. This, argued Professor Bagshawe, should be more precise in its lethal effects, killing only the cancer cells and not healthy ones.

Trials in animal models have shown encouraging results, and the drug company Zeneca is now developing the technique for the treatment of colon cancer. But Dr Tan argues that the technique is likely to be effective only if the enzyme binds strongly to the tumour cells.

This is where the sheep come in. "The larger the animal, the stronger the binding of the antibodies," he says.

Producing monoclonal antibodies from sheep rather than mice can increase binding a thousandfold, and should produce a much more effective treatment.

The actual production process does no harm to the animals. They are injected with the cancer proteins, and

their white blood cells make the antibodies. A sample of blood from the sheep then provides the basic material for producing the monoclonal antibodies, in exactly the same way as from mice. It sounds simple, but it has taken eight years of work to get this far, and there is still some way to go before the sheep monoclonals can be tried in therapy.

There is, though, a new optimism. Dr Press says that many in the field feel apologetic that it has not delivered so far. "But I always thought that it would take a long time to satisfy the expectations raised in the popular press, so I was neither surprised nor disappointed. I think we're making slow, steady progress."

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One of the problems with monoclonal antibodies is that they have come mostly from mice, not men. They are made by injecting a disease-causing agent into the mouse and provoking the animal's immune response. Then the cells responsible for producing the antibodies are harvested from the mouse's spleen, and fused in the laboratory with myeloma cells. The results are hybridomas — cells which combine the cancer's immortality with the spleen cells' ability to produce antibodies.

Since the mouse is the standard laboratory animal, mouse antibodies have been the normal product. But mouse antibodies are foreign matter when injected into human patients and provoke their own immune response. This means that repeated injections are usually impossible, and that any treatment based on mouse antibodies must be effective within a few treatments.

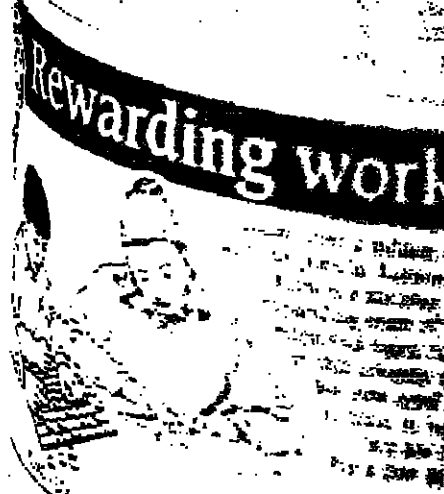
Trials also quickly showed that with cancer at least, antibodies on their own were not enough to kill off the tumour. To improve the hit-rate, an ingenious strategy was adopted. The antibody was linked to a more conventional cancer-killing drug, and merely used as a guide-dog, carrying the drug directly to the tumour. In this case, the

The idea is to carry the enzyme to the tumour

The renewed optimism has also led to the opening of a centre for the manufacture of monoclonals at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford. The Therapeutic Antibody Centre, which is part of the university, is the result of an agreement struck between the Medical Research Council and the pharmaceutical company LeukoSite Inc. Its aim is to test a variety of antibodies in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and other diseases caused by the faults in the immune system.

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## Magnus Linklater recalls the dreadful moment he was forced to pull the plug on an old family friend's life-support system



There has been a death in the family. As so often in these matters, it has been a slow and painful one. But in this case there has been an extra dimension to the grief: the departed one has taken valuable secrets to the grave, information which may never now be recovered. Our dearly beloved computer, its origins betrayed by the copyright sign Microsoft 1987, has gone to the great database in the sky.

The signs came early on. Starting up each morning was an increasing struggle. The terrible warning sign "Disc Boot Failure" appeared ever more frequently on the screen, followed by wheezing sounds from somewhere inside the frame as we tried desperately to encourage it to face another day. A gentle touch to the starter switch produced the best results, but we found it helpful to leave it for ten minutes or so while it gathered its strength to try again.

We called in a computer medic who looked it over, somewhat unsympathetically we thought. He suggested that it was malingering. What it really needed,

## The day my computer died

he said, was a sharp blow to the side of the monitor, and he gave it one. So shocked was the machine that it did, indeed, spring into action and proceeded to boot up, download and print out with a speed and accuracy it hadn't managed in weeks. But later it was clearly drained by the activity, and it never again responded in quite the same way.

Finally the day came when the medic took us on one side and suggested that the time had come to put it to rest and replace it with a brand-new machine. He was clearly no great believer in the need for grief-counselling and seemed to us rather more enthusiastic about extolling the virtues of the new MS-Dos 6.22 model with Windows and increased-megabyte-capacity than he was in easing the departure of our friend and companion. But he did stress that it would be kinder all round if we accepted the

inevitable. We held a quiet family conference and agreed it was for the best. There is a rather harrowing ritual involved in disposing of a terminally sick computer. One has to extract any remaining files contained on its hard disk before handing it over to the dealers to do what they have to do. I decided that this should be carried out at the shop rather than subject the family to the pain of actually seeing it happen. I therefore unplugged it for the last time, loaded it into the back of the car and drove quickly away without telling anyone.

I am not, I confess, very brave about these things. I simply left it with them, told them to do whatever was necessary, and then let me know the result. The telephone call, when it came, was worse than I could possibly have imagined. They had opened up the outer casing, but had found that the hard disk was so

badly corrupted that they couldn't extract the files remaining on it. The machine was being kept alive only by some electronic life-support system. I was shocked to the core. I heard myself saying: "I demand a second opinion." Then: "Don't move. I'm coming round."

I leapt into the car and raced to the shop. The sight I saw was too awful for words. There, wired up to a series of other machines, its screen barely flickering, was my computer. I scarcely recognised it. The outer casing had been removed and its insides were revealed: a row of electrodes, wafers and chips, the bits you don't ever want to know about.

"Was there anything important on it?" said the computer man. "Important?" I yelped. Only every single letter I had typed and stored over the past five years, a veritable cornucopia of corres-

pondence, a time capsule of communication. If I lost that I lost half a decade of my most intimate life. True, there were also some of the most boring letters ever written, but there were others which, well... I asked if I could at least read some of the files. Just seeing them brought tears to the eyes.

I leant over the familiar keyboard and whispered some encouraging words. Then I moved the cursor onto the top file and pressed Enter. For a moment I thought I heard an answering groan, then the screen spluttered out: Error reading Drive C: Abort? Retry? Ignore?

It was a terrible choice for anyone to make, worse if you were considering part of yourself to limbo. I pressed Retry, but I knew in my heart it was no good. The computer man murmured something about a London specialist with a brand-new treatment. Expensive of course, but possibly worth a try. I shook my head sadly. It would just prolong the agony.

We both knew what had to be done. He raised a final questioning eyebrow and I nodded. Then he switched it off.

## Women, my clothes and sex...

The top Paris designer Agnès b. talks to Kate Muir about free love, smoking and a lifetime of rebellion

THERE was little indication in 1941, when Agnès b. was born Agnès Troublé, into a respectable Roman Catholic family in occupied France, that she would grow up to run a £70 million international clothing empire, have five children by three different fathers, and develop a lasting penchant for black leather jeans.

The appropriately named Troublés were upstanding citizens of the town of Versailles, until the young Agnès veered spectacularly off course. At 17, she fell in love with a fellow student, Christian Bourgois, and married him — "you had to in those days". By 18, she was pregnant, and at 19 gave birth to twins. By 20 she was divorced — a single working mother, who started to design clothes to survive.

All this could not have pleased Mme Troublé, a strict matriarch from a military family, who had been educated at the Légion d'Honneur school for children of servicemen, and kept a similar atmosphere at home. Her four children were always perfectly turned out. Agnès in her pretty little dresses with crisp collars and ties. The seeds for designer rebellion were sown very early on.

W ere a classic bourgeois family, constrained, and my life now is so different from that," says the fully-grown Agnès b., curled with a cigarette on the white sofa of her minimalist loft-workshop. "My life is open, but in my family people were hiding parts of their lives, their private thoughts. They were always maintaining this facade of decency. I prefer to live a real life, and if I change husbands... well, fine, I change husbands," she shrugs, laughing.

Directness and simplicity became her motto, in life as much as design. By the time Agnès b. was 34, she had shed not only her respectability and her past, but also both her surnames. She opened her first shop in Paris, filled it with her own designs, and had the sense to know that Agnès Troublé was not the most promising title. She considered her married name of Bourgois, but her former husband, an editor, "had a certain notoriety in the publishing world which seemed incompatible with my work as a designer". So she just kept the b. for her brand name, "lower case, because it suits me better".

The Agnès b. company celebrates its twentieth anniversary



A fashion rebel at ease: Agnès b. on the white sofa of her minimalist loft-workshop in Paris. Directness and simplicity have become her motto, in life as much as in design

ry this year, with 80 shops around the world, four in Britain. The secret of Agnès b. designs is that they are almost unrecognised: usually black or grey, simple and perfectly cut. To those in the know, they carry a discreet signal. "My clothes are changed by the person who wears them, not vice versa," says the designer, herself in her near-ubiquitous leather jeans and one of her little cropped cardigans.

The Agnès b. cardigan, made in sweatshirt material with a row of pearl press-studs, has become a classic, changing only slightly every year. It is not cheap at about £50, but good value when hours of wear per penny are considered. More than two million Agnès b. cardigans have been sold, and most still remain washable, eternal favourites in wardrobes worldwide. The idea for the row of pearl studs came from the priests' cassocks which she remembered from her Versailles childhood, but her subverted version is worn more unbuttoned.

Those who still cannot visualise the Agnès b. style need only think back to the Quentin Tarantino film *Pulp Fiction*. As Uma Thurman dances with John Travolta, combine her Agnès b. fitted white shirt with enormous cuffs, soft black trousers cut above the ankle, and

Travolta's long-line black jacket with a leather collar. Understated, and incredibly cool. Agnès b. never does any marketing, and shuns all advertising. Neither has been necessary, since she relies entirely on instinct. She will often spend a couple of hours



To those who are in the know, wearing the Agnès b. label carries a discreet signal

in front of the mirror trying on her test designs — are the shoulders too tight? Does she want bigger pockets? "I like pockets," she says, fiddling with some on a little black dress. "Where else do you put your hands?"

This understanding that the right clothes can bring comfort in embarrassing or frightening situations is exactly why women are prepared to pay for an Agnès b. She is aware of the subtle psychology of dressing: "Women like to change character day by day through what they wear, to play at being different people."

Besides, the typical custom-

er is rarely a vulgar or obvious sort. Her London shops are in the Portobello Road, Hampstead, Covent Garden and South Kensington, which says precisely who her clientele are.

That is not to say that understatement is unattractive. "Any clothes can be sexy, depending on the woman who wears them. I don't like really tough, sexy clothes because there is too much obvious intention."

In 1975, when Agnès b. decided to set up shop, it was in reaction to the fashion-victim ethos of that time (with flares and polyester, an acknowledged low point in style). "I had no plan at all, but I used to work for someone else, designing new stuff every season, and I thought we needed easier, simpler clothes that did not have to change constantly. I hate the spectacle of fashion — I wanted to do something more serious."

She went into business with her second husband and father of two more children, Jean-René de Fleury. She had all the clothes made in basic white and dyed the rest personally in the shop.

Customers could buy direct off the clothes-line. "We loved it. It was a home from home, and all our friends hung out there."

She tries to keep her new headquarters, a loft building in the up-and-coming République area, in the same

spirit. Employees and visitors can check out the latest CDs, from Smashing Pumpkins to French rap and regga, at a console in the enormous pillared hall. There is a little café-bar with Evian bottles on it, walls of canvases by New York graffiti artists. Agnès b. herself does not even have a desk. She floats around the workshops. "I hate the corporate world, and I do not want to be known as a businesswoman. I'm a clothes designer."

Her son Étienne, now in his thirties, deals with the business side. The idea of her son being a company director jolts you into remembering that this fresh-faced, petite blonde is a 54-year-old mother-of-five and grandmother-of-four. Children never interfered with her career, she says, because they were there from the beginning, a pleasant habit she could not give up. "I've always had children — I had the twins when I was 19, but before that I used to babysit. Children can teach you so much. I get on very well with them." Her youngest daughter is just 12.

She relied on nannies and plant cleaning ladies, and believes in a pleasant habit she could not give up. "I've always had children — I had the twins when I was 19, but before that I used to babysit. Children can teach you so much. I get on very well with them." Her youngest daughter is just 12.

She designs every item herself, from men's to women's to children's. There is no design team. "I have no problem about creation — I do it like playing, very quickly."

Aside from regular forays into a green pack of cigarettes, there are no signs that the burden of multinational business is dragging on Agnès b. She is indeed playful. Of course, male artists and writers have always maintained that a regular turnover of spouses and lovers keeps ideas fresh. Is it the same for her?

"I have lived with the same photographer for nine years," she parries. "But I hate resignation to arrangements, and if something changes, it changes. I believe each day is a gift and should be lived to the full."

There is still something of the Sixties flower child about her. Compared with most

French interviewees, she is happy to talk about her vie privée in a general way, and gives the impression that having three fathers for her children (and who knows how many other relationships) is a perfectly normal progression. Her dedication to free love and

smoking has not wavered, and it seems that part of her has never grown up. Her enthusiasm can be almost childlike: "Oh yes, I still adore the Rolling Stones and Iggy Pop, but I also like Bono and U2." There is no doubt that she is often the only grandmother

attending some of Paris's rock concerts.

Life is not all hedonism. Although she is happy to make a profit, Agnès b. sees no reason why her shops cannot also be used for charity. She raised thousands of pounds with her "Hearts for Sarajevo" campaign in France, and ran similar campaigns for the homeless in New York and Britain. At the moment, there are exquisitely-wrapped condoms in baskets at the check-outs. "I suppose I am still a Catholic in the sense that I belong to the Left and believe we should help other people."

I ndeed, her scruples are one reason why her clothes are expensive — they are all made in France. "I want to know what's happening to my clothes. I don't want children to make my clothes. I don't want badly paid people to make my clothes."

The cost is most astounding in her children's section — £30 for the famous cardigan for a one-year-old. Can she justify that? "Well, to get full use you either have to hand the clothes on to friends or... here she smiles wickedly, "have five children."

One other criticism — voiced by many British women with strapping shoulders and sturdy, hockey-bred legs — is that Agnès b.'s petite French sizes of 1, 2 and 3 are sometimes too confining. Yet the small sizes are good business — it is always the size 3 that is left in the sale. "I noticed that a lot of women were shopping in the men's section, so I wanted to stop that and do more feminine clothes for larger women."

Her ethos is perfectly summed up by the words on a plain white (and no doubt very expensive) T-shirt she has just designed: "b. yourself".

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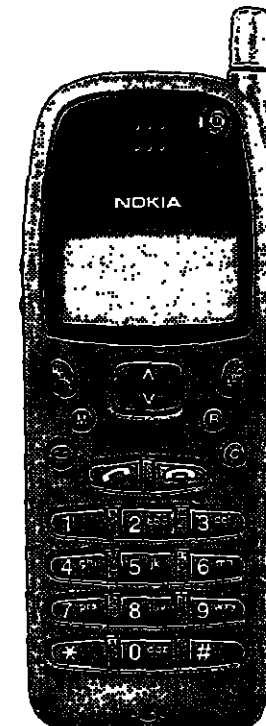
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## Matthew Parris



Keep the additives and take out the ingredients: ill-health foods are on their way

What do they do with all the caffeine they take out of decaffeinated coffee? A year ago, this column speculated on the existence of a mysterious caffeine hill among the butter mountains and wine lakes of Europe. Alongside the growing range of products with the naughty things taken out, where (we ask?) are the products with the naughty things enhanced? How about a caffeine-reinforced cola? I even devised what was, I thought, an original name for it: "Jolt".

It exists! A reader sent me a bottle. Or rather sent me a bottle from America. On Friday, I was recounting the tale to a random group of fellow-passengers on the P&O ferry from Bilbao to Portsmouth, all excellent people: an Anglo-Spanish bongo-drum player with a passion for flamenco, a Midlands couple who educate all their children at home in North Wales, and the Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate for Hove. One does not expect less on the better class of ferry.

The idea appealed. We discussed the brand-imaging success in Britain of Death Cigarettes. Despite warnings that gales were "imminent", the sea was calm and the sky was blue, so in a mood of cheerful disregard for all official wisdom, we whiled away the morning developing a proposed product range for a new concept of supermarket chain, bearing the alternative working names of Die-Rite or Kwik-Die.

For adolescents there will be a range of products guaranteed to produce spots

Horn-hand range will vie with roll-on perspirants from the House of Lockwood and Salon Horse.

Body-hair reinforcers in the Bikini range will be based on those spray-on. Father Christmas beards, but in a more imaginative colour range than white. For a quick tan, my Factor Minus 15 sunscreen will actually attract ultraviolet rays. The washing-up liquid which promises not to put an unnatural shine on your plates and the shampoo with its own flecks of simulated dandruff should attract the rough-and-ready kind of customer, as should our two new realistic mouth sprays, trade name Food Breath and Parrot's Cage, for wingers who don't want their wives to know they have been sucking mints.

Besides the product-line itself, my team and I have come up with a handful of names for which the product has yet to be devised. I am still looking for foods, creams or sprays to bear the names Daunt, Cringe and Dishevel.

But enough. Portsmouth harbour approaches. It's been a great cruise. Is there anywhere you can buy stress-inducing cassette tapes? Not yet. But there soon will be.

This article has been tested on animals. I read it to the cat.

John Major's Frost interview showed a man ill at ease with himself and unsure of his policies

# Tactics aren't enough to run the country

William Rees-Mogg

David Frost is an excellent television interviewer because he allows the people he is questioning to make the best case for themselves that they can. He puts the right questions, but does so in a polite and friendly way. If people have good answers they are not obscured by aggressive interruptions. Often his technique draws out the people he is talking to, so one learns more than one would get from a more forceful cross-examination.

This makes the contrast between the Prime Minister's Frost interview this January and the one last January all the more revealing. Last year, John Major was in excellent form, relaxed, self-confident and unusually close to being definite on policy. It was one of his best interviews since the general election, probably his most confident since Britain was forced out of the exchange-rate mechanism, more than two years earlier. John Major intended to signal that the fight-back had begun; he took a much tougher line on Europe, which heartened those who felt that his European policy had previously been too soft. One began to feel that one knew where he stood; but in January 1996, one had to acknowledge that one did not.

Yesterday saw the return of the old John Major. Regarding Europe, he seemed to have gone back to all his old indecisive attitudes. He has not decided whether a single currency would be a good thing or a bad thing; he is sure that it would be important; he is more than doubtful whether it could be achieved by 1999; he thinks the onus of proof should be on those who advocate it — but he still has an open mind, and is not even ready to say whether he would have a referendum if he ever did decide that Britain ought to join. Last year he seemed to be moving towards defining his European policy; this year he

seemed to be moving back away from doing so.

His broader case for the Government was no more convincing. He claimed that it had seen Britain through a world recession which had been difficult for everyone — he did not mention that the economy turned round only after he had been forced to drop his whole exchange-rate policy. He said that the economy was now strong compared to the rest of Europe, which may be true. He said that the Labour Party had no policies, but did not seem to have many himself. He said that this year's legislation on broadcasting and education was very important, though he hardly explained why. He defended Michael Portillo, whom he has promoted through a series of posts, but thought it would be quite wrong for him to censor Michael Portillo's speeches.

There have been Prime Ministers like this before. Arthur Balfour's most famous book was called *In Defence of Philosophic Doubt*. Herbert Henry Asquith's most famous political saying was "Wait and see". Stanley Baldwin fought, and lost, the 1929 election on the uninspiring slogan of "Safety first". Harold Wilson said that "a week in politics is a long time". The results of such dithering have always been electorally disastrous in the end, although it has often taken a time for the disillusion to work its way through the system. Balfour's scepticism was

followed in 1906 by the worst general election defeat the Conservatives have suffered in this century; Asquith's dilatoriness, which became more marked when he was a wartime Prime Minister, destroyed the Liberals forever as a party of power; the mere memory of Baldwin played a large part in the 1945 election, the second largest defeat the Conservatives have suffered this century. A couple of years after Harold Wilson had finished with it, the Labour Party went out of office for 17 years.

make a big decision were to leave it alone. I remember one of Baldwin's ministers, then an old man, expressing this doctrine: "What I always say is, when you don't know what to do, the best thing to do is — nothing." I have recently been studying the Easter Rising of 1916 in Dublin, an event which decided the future of Ireland, and to some extent the future of the British Empire. Asquith was told the news when he got back to London from the Bank Holiday weekend; he commented: "Well, that's something," and went off to bed.

Why do these able Prime Ministers fail, and in a way that is so disastrous for their parties? In some cases, but not in John Major's, the fault has been sloth. Both Asquith and Baldwin were lazy men. In other cases, in Wilson's and probably in John Major's as well, the fault is an unduly tactical rather than strategic grasp of politics. Good chiefs of staff usually make bad commanders.

Francis Bacon observed that everyone has an Aristotelian or a Platonic mind, either analytical or synthetic. Aristotelians break down general statements into their particulars; Platonists build particulars into general statements. Inevitably, the analytical approach is detailed and tactical, whereas the Platonic approach deals in broad ideals and objectives. Balfour's scepticism

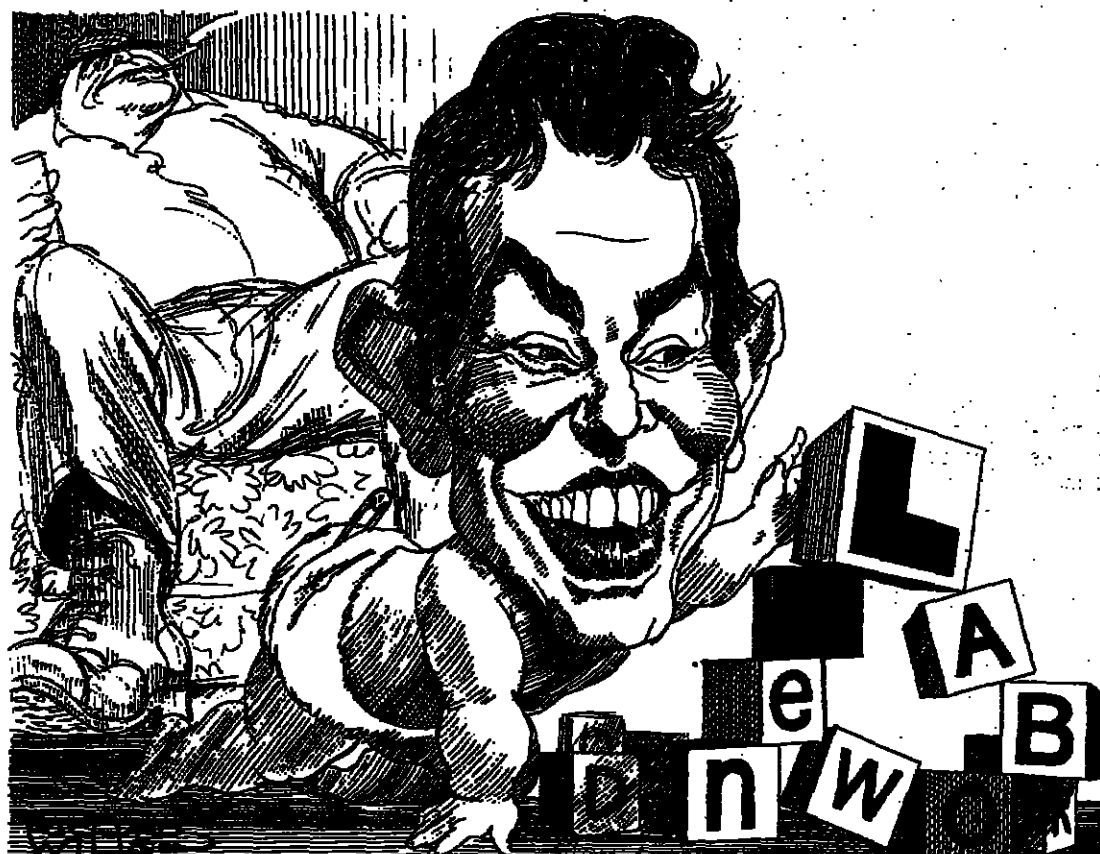
Asquith's sloth, Baldwin's caution, Wilson's cunning, Major's pragmatism have all tended to produce tactical reactions to events rather than the seizing of the strategic initiative. All five of these Prime Ministers have appealed strongly to contemporaries who themselves fell on the tactical and detailed side of this great divide.

Two and a half years ago, I wrote that John Major was too much the whip and too little the leader to be an effective Prime Minister. This view was much criticised at the time, and thought to be snobbish, heaven knows why. Leadership is not a question of class — Napoleon was no aristocrat. John Major is now exposed to a damaging contrast with Tony Blair, who has treated the Labour Party with a ruthlessness that Wilson never showed. This may or may not work out in the end. He too has problems over Europe. There is much more venom in old and in militant Labour than has yet been expressed. The new Labour Party has not, as John Major said to David Frost, produced its manifesto. But everyone can see the broad strategic thrust of Tony Blair's campaign. In the everlasting battle between tactics and strategy, Tony Blair has the strategic advantage.

The outlook for the Tories has now become a nightmare, in which defeat looks very probable, and catastrophic defeat more than possible. Half their present seats could be lost — it is no wonder that morale has collapsed. John Major is in many ways a good man — honest, intelligent, kindly. But he is not a good leader, because it is the job of a leader to decide. In terms of strategy he wasted 1995. One can only say to him what the old sergeant said to the flustered young officer whose incoherent orders were sending his men over the cliff: "Say something, if it's only 'goodbye'."

# Why Blair needs more time

Labour may be ready for an election, but not to govern, says Peter Riddell



An early general election is not in Tony Blair's interests. It suits Labour for John Major's Government to be damaged and drifting, but not for it to sink. Yet, as Mr Major showed in his robust performance on the Frost programme, he is not about to surrender the captaincy without a fight. Mr Blair knows not only that the election will probably be close, but also that his party is not yet ready for government — as Philip Gould, one of his key strategists, warned last spring in a famous leaked memo.

Mr Blair does not think that governments just lose elections. He believes that oppositions — and especially oppositions with the baggage of divisions and extremism that Labour carried over from the 1980s — positively have to win them. In that he differs from John Smith and his safety-first approach in 1992-94. Understandable, perhaps, about a lost leader suddenly struck down have produced a pretence of continuity between the two, when the discontinuities are more striking. To convince voters that Labour has really changed, Mr Blair is creating a new party — something Mr Smith never contemplated, and would not have admitted even if he had.

Much has already been achieved, along the lines that Mr Gould discussed. Blairism has developed roots throughout the party, even if they are still delicate in some places. Labour's ideological foundations have been torn up and reconstructed; the formal role of trade unions has been reduced; and individual membership has soared by more than half, to well over 375,000. The main bastion of "old" Labour is the parliamentary party, where turnover is inevitably

much slower. The balance should shift after the election, since Mr Blair's allies reckon, perhaps over-optimistically, that 90 per cent of the candidates so far picked to replace retiring MPs or in winnable seats back his approach. But many of these could be fair-weather friends, just as many zealous young Wilsonites elected in 1964 and 1966 soon turned on their leader. But more needs to be done to bed in these changes.

The public, however, is unsure about what Labour would do. Many voters remain unaware of the replacement of Clause Four, let alone Gordon Brown's "welfare-to-work" proposals to tackle unemployment. The focus groups — discussions among undecided and swing voters held almost weekly by Labour strategists — show that while people are disenchanted with the Tories, they

have little knowledge of Labour's proposals. After addressing the CBI annual conference two months ago, Mr Blair was struck that his talk of a new Labour approach to industry was treated as a (welcome) revelation by many businessmen, even though it was largely a reworking of what he had been saying for the previous year. Hence, he will be repeating his core themes again and again.

Mr Blair's Tokyo speech on Friday was intended to trump the Tories' attempt to portray themselves as the only party able to make Britain the so-called "enterprise centre of Europe". He claims that Labour now accepts the broad thrust of the economic changes of the 1980s — tighter monetary and fiscal discipline, free

markets, lower taxes and laws limiting trade unions — but that these are not enough. Governments have to do more to promote training and invest in infrastructure if Britain is to remain globally competitive, while ensuring that a minority is not permanently excluded.

There are obvious holes: notably, how to reconcile aspirations for improved public services with overall spending restraint and reform of the welfare state. Shadow spokesmen do not have the incentive to produce unpopular savings, while welfare reform is bound to enrage some group which benefits from the current system. But breaking out of the culture and cost of welfare dependency is the big prize for a Blair government.

Other principal areas of vulnerability are Europe and constitutional change. Mr Blair and Robin Cook

have skilfully balanced a positive approach to Britain's role in Europe with caution about specific moves to closer integration. But Mr Blair's advisers are anxious that after the Madrid summit the party's attitude towards a single currency — that "it all depends on the economic circumstances" — could be picked apart during a campaign in spring 1997, when a firm decision about which countries will participate will be needed just a year later. Mr Brown will be fleshing out Labour's approach to monetary union in the late spring, but a firm commitment is unlikely.

Labour has already promised far-reaching constitutional changes: a bill of rights, reform of the House of Lords, freedom of information and, above all, devolution. But all this could derail Labour's legislative programme unless potential pitfalls are addressed now. Anyone who has read Roy Jenkins's elegant *Gladstone* — and that includes Mr Blair — is bound to be struck by the similarity of the current arguments over devolution and the role of Scottish MPs at Westminster to those in the 1880s about Irish Home Rule, which were the occasion for, if not the cause of, Joseph Chamberlain's resignation from the Cabinet and the defeat of the Liberal Government. Scottish MPs are going to have to surrender some of their rights if they want a tax-raising parliament in Edinburgh.

These unresolved questions are linked to the party's preparations for government: the formal contacts with senior civil servants which are about to start, supplementing the many informal links; the training sessions for largely inexperienced spokesmen; the debate about whether the machinery of Whitehall needs to be changed; and the working out of legislative and political priorities. Much more needs to be done in all these areas. If Labour came to office before the autumn — and perhaps even before next year — it would risk a repetition of the confusion and incoherence which so undermined Harold Wilson's Governments. Creating a new party takes time. Mr Blair should be in no hurry for office.

## Back to back



Westminster Guildhall

THE LABOUR PARTY is looking for a suitable home for the London-wide local government authority that it plans to introduce as a replacement for the GLC. The frontrunner is said to be the former home of Middlesex County Council, the Guildhall in Westminster, an over-decorated building which sits opposite the House of Commons on Parliament Square.

The Victorian extravaganza — which is smothered in carved figures and curlicues — is currently used as a Crown Court, but it was the home of Middlesex County Council before the GLC came into being. Labour MPs accept that hope is receding of a compulsory purchase of County Hall, the former home of the GLC, which a Japanese company is transforming into a leisure complex and apartments — with all the haste of evolutionary change.

"The Guildhall on Parliament Square is one of the obvious sites," says a Labour MP. "But the City of London's Guildhall is another. I know that we are talking to a whole range of people about finding a suitable home."

Yet Frank Dobson, the Shadow

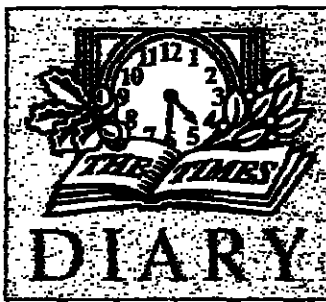
Environment Secretary, says he has made no commitment with regard to the putative body's future home. "It is utterly new to me that the Guildhall is being considered. The body will have to go somewhere and I still wouldn't want to rule out County Hall."

It is tough on Michael Portillo, getting all the blame for the proposed sale of Admiralty Arch while he is stuck in Japan on Her Majesty's business. Since July 1994, the issue has been the responsibility of the Department of the Environment and therefore John Gummer's problem.

### Body & mind

MELVYN BRAGG displays his spiritual side on television for the first time next month, when he discusses religion as part of the BBC series *The Big Question*. He admits that as a teenager he had "literally scores and scores of out-of-body experiences". These were terrifying episodes, he explains, "where part of you leaves yourself and hovers above your body deciding whether to go."

Bragg says that he has only had another one or two of these experiences since adolescence, but he does feel the presence of his late



father. Since his death a year ago, his father has visited him and spoken to him on many occasions. But Bragg père is a benign presence. His son says: "He doesn't appear in a spooky way. He doesn't suddenly materialise on a Wednesday morning at breakfast."

### Twice blessed

AT A society wedding on Saturday, the new Mrs Alexander Finn made a short speech. She had been walking through Claridge's from her suite that morning to the hair salon, she told guests, when she spotted Cardinal Basil Hume having breakfast.

Wearing only her dressing-gown, she marched up to him and told him she considered the encounter a good omen. His Emi-

nence promptly blessed her, as did the amused visiting Cardinal with whom he was breaking toast.

After the débacle of the Government's traffic cone helpline, road contractors have obviously decided honesty is the better policy. An unusually candid sign spotted in East London reads: "Slow contractors at work."

### Slice of life

A THESPIAN tradition was honoured on Saturday night at the Theatre Royal in the West End of



London, when the Baddeley cake celebrated its 200th anniversary. A comedian called Robert Baddeley died in 1794, bequeathing actors in the company a round of "cake, wine and punch" in his memory, and since 1796 the theatre has celebrated Twelfth Night in a manner that Sir Toby Belch would have approved.

The cast of *Miss Saigon* duly sampled some cake and toasted the late actor.

It seems that Luciano Pavarotti may be forsaking his trademark handkerchief for a new talisman. In Cape Town last night for a concert, he was spotted buying nine pairs of ethnic sandals from a street vendor. The cheap rubber-soled footwear is favoured by Zulu nightwatchmen, and comes in a variety of Day-Glo colours. Opera-goers should scrutinise his feet.

### Self-publicists

IS THE career of the boxer so transient that punchers have to hand out photographs of themselves to remind people what they look like? Chris Eubank — who has recently retired from the ring — was spotted at the opening of a restaurant before Christmas handing out postcards with an image of himself sit-



Eubank: wheeled out

ting on a motorbike in jodhpurs. Waving aside autograph-books, he doled these out and signed them.

At one of Lord Archer's recent festive bashes, Frank Bruno, a boxer whom one would have thought equally distinctive, delighted fellow guests by handing out pictures of himself.

P.H.S





## PARENTAL DUTIES

School needs to begin and end at home

High above the daily political battles for defectors, majorities and deals, another bigger battle is going on. Both parties sense the public disquiet eloquently expressed by David Selbourne on the page opposite on Saturday about the threat to our civic order. Both sense a growing call for the language of duty to supplant the excessive language of rights. The Tories, by their traditional doctrines, ought to be able to give the better answer. But Tony Blair has, with increasing boldness, appropriated the theme. It is a sign of the audacity with which he has leaptfrogged the Tories that John Major yesterday felt obliged to take back for himself a piece of Labour policy.

Mr Major announced in a television interview that he wanted to see the nationwide use of home-school contracts in schools — an idea first adopted as party policy by Labour last month. These contracts are already widely used by schools as a way of encouraging parents to take their children's education more seriously. Parents are typically required to ensure their child's regular and punctual attendance at school, to supervise homework and to attend meetings with teachers. Schools set themselves corresponding duties in return.

Such contracts remind parents both that the right to education involves responsibilities, and that education does not begin and end at the school gate. Most parents want the best for their children and already fulfil the terms of a home-school contract. The question is what to do with the small minority of problem parents who show no interest in their children's education and thus fall down on their side of the bargain.

Some suggest that these contracts should be given the force of law. Professor Michael Barber, an adviser to both the Government and the Labour Party, wrote in our Education pages that parents should have a statutory duty not only to see that their child

attends school, but also to attend a meeting with their child's teacher at least twice a year to discuss the part they should play in their child's educational development.

But governments should think hard before creating new categories of crime — with all the bureaucracy, expense and demands on the criminal justice system. Already the machinery for ensuring that parents fulfil their statutory duty to send their children to school is applied only patchily. The Government would be right to start with informal contracts before proceeding further.

The existence of such contracts would at least influence the climate of national opinion. Just as the introduction of the Citizen's Charter has made British people more accomplished consumers, these contracts might also encourage them to become better citizens, more conscientious in the fulfilment of their duties.

A stubborn minority of uncooperative parents will remain; but it is questionable whether they would react even to the force of law. Some are simply inadequate to control their children, and their reluctant attendance at a meeting with teachers would not achieve much. Others may be too ill-educated themselves to help with homework, or have too little time, energy or space in their homes to be able to do so.

Schools will have to accept that a few children will always suffer from low parental expectations and poor conditions for learning. For these pupils, after-school homework clubs may have to take the place of family support. And if mentors can be found from the local community, they too can help to offer adult encouragement and interest. But the more that parents understand their responsibilities for the moral, social and educational development of their children, the less these safety-net measures will be needed — and the more cohesive society will become.

## RUSSIA'S MIDWINTER

Where earth stands hard as iron and democratic hopes falter

Orthodox Christmas is the time to remember that Russia began as an authoritarian economic laggard. From there it leapt into history's vanguard, as the Soviet Union became the bloodstained crucible of a totalitarian experiment. Boris Yeltsin, who won the first democratic election for the Russian presidency, outlasted the reactionary anti-Gorbachev coup and used his moment of maximum power to bring about the collapse of the Communist Party and the dissolution of the Soviet Union itself.

History has galloped the Russian steppe since and once again its course appears to be veering. Mr Yeltsin has promised that by his 65th birthday next month, he will announce whether he will run this June for a second term. Heavy as the odds against success were when Mr Yeltsin originally challenged the party machine, his chances with the electorate currently look slighter still.

Mr Yeltsin's personal standing has plummeted, to around 10 per cent. In bad health, he must reckon with the certainty that this time, the contest will run into a second round. Not only did last month's parliamentary elections confirm his Government's deep unpopularity, but great patches of Communist red and ultranationalist black stain the psephological entrails.

Should he run, he cannot discount the risk of a first-round defeat. That could leave Russians to choose between Gennadi Zyuganov, leader of the revived and only partially reformed Communist Party, and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the repellent ultranationalist whose continued electoral appeal puts in question the irreversibility of Russian democracy. Reformers have made

little secret of their belief that if Russia is to escape a rendezvous with the past, democrats need a new standard-bearer.

Russians have damned their Government; but considering how small is the new middle class and how many live in appalling conditions, that is hardly extraordinary. The great question is whether they have also turned their backs on reform, even on democracy. Mr Zyuganov speaks softly to the West, but he has yet to repudiate the past. Before trying their hand at democratic politics, he and his party backed every undemocratic attempt to get rid of Mr Yeltsin. The Communist pitch on the hustings was not about cushioned change, but about stopping it: voters were promised most of the old certainties of a state-controlled economy — and they seem ready to forget what economic lunacy went with it.

Even in Russia, the clock will not be as easy to put back as many fear. In any great social transformation, the secret is to create more winners than losers. Russia is not there yet, but with 60 per cent of the economy in private hands, the number of people with a stake in economic freedoms is growing. The political landscape is bleaker. Free votes have yet to translate into truly democratic government: Russia is still run by interest groups competing behind closed doors for the Kremlin's ear. The pressure for accountability is there: the turnout in the December elections proved that Russians take their vote seriously. The country is no longer a "riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma". But Russia's new year is still hard to read and it is far from the "normality" that reformers crave and the world needs.

## THE WAY OF ALL

When perpetual dreamers attempt perpetual motion

The family that set off on its dream holiday has come home to earth. A year ago Gordon Finch, a builder fed up with the "doom and gloom" of modern Britain, set sail to escape. After pressure from his family, he took along his wife, three sons, two of the sons' girlfriends and a toddler grandson. He sold up in that fine North Yorkshire town of Stokesley. With the money he bought an eight-berth yacht equipped with bathrooms, colour television, freezer and washing machine. The plan was that the Finches would spend five years cruising around the holiday world, returning in time for the millennium to discover whether the real world had become a better place.

They left under a nimbus of envious publicity. But they did not keep sailing away for even the year and a day of those other fantasy sailors, *Lear's Owl* and the *Pussy-Cat*. They voyaged only as far as Spain. Thence they have just slunk back with Yorkshire taciturnity to those asking for news of their dream holiday. They retain the small consolation that, with the property market finally leaving the doldrums, they may be the last such Rip Van Winkle sailors to find house prices the same as when they set sail.

Somewhere over the rainbow is the pubescent Judy Garland. On a Monday morning in early January this may sound a puritanical doctrine. But dreams are for dreaming not waking, fantasy is fun only when imagined against the real world. The holiday of a lifetime is a necessary myth such as the Garden of Eden, Hollywood and

Atlantis. But an everlasting holiday is an oxymoron, because without harsh life to get away from, holiday loses its meaning.

As usual, Shakespeare wrote this leader first. "If all the year were playing holidays, To sport would be as tedious as to work." Charming and independent Millamant in *The Way of All Flesh*, Irished-up a trifle by Fiona Shaw at the National Theatre, put such suburban weekend romantics firmly in their place: "I nauseate walking; 'tis a country diversion. I loathe the country."

Of course we should not loathe the country or pleasure-boating with quite the emphasis of witty, pretty Millamant. But for most of the world these are holiday and weekend excursions. When they retire to their former holiday heavens, many people find loneliness and boredom instead of the old pleasure in change. Most of the fun of the National Lottery lies in fantasy about what to do with the money if you win. Winners seem to find disappointment, envy, boredom, loss of purpose and embarrassment. They should give away their money to found a university or support orphans.

Man was not sent into this world entirely for pleasure, not even that of continual sailing. The latest escapists have just repeated a message as old as history. Man is a Monday-morning, working creature carrying his bread in the sweat of his face. Without the common mortal grind to set them against, dreams are a disappointment and holidays a contradiction. The Finches are better off in Stokesley than marooned in Never Never Land or the travel brochures.

## Hong Kong tax tips for Britain

From Professor Peter G. Willoughby

Sir, Mr Christopher Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, in his recent Conservative Central Office lecture (report, October 30, 1995), drew attention to the economic advantages of the territory's low-tax, low-expenditure economy. He was quite right to do so. However, it is not only in economic terms that the Hong Kong tax system has much to teach the United Kingdom.

While Hong Kong has never placed much emphasis on social engineering through the tax system (preferring to stress simple legislation, low tax rates, low administrative costs and high yields), the latest proposed amendment to the tax law is an admirable example of simple pragmatic tax legislation which has a clear social purpose.

The Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No 4) Bill 1995 provides for the total disallowance for tax purposes of all forms of income and capital expenditure on private cars. This will apply to employers who provide cars for use by employees, to self-employed persons and to employees. The exclusion will apply to the costs of acquisition as well as running expenses, irrespective of whether the car is used for business or private purposes.

While the Bill's primary purpose is the discouragement of the use of private cars, in the hope of reducing traffic congestion, it is also likely to provide a simpler and more effective way of taxing the benefit enjoyed by an employee whose employer provides a car. Thus an employer will be taxed on the full cost of providing cars for employees — a distinct improvement on the taxation of employees on the value of a benefit which has to be determined by an elaborate formula, as is the case in the United Kingdom.

Incidentally, the Bill contains six short sections covering just over a page. Perhaps the drafting style also has something to teach the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER WILLOUGHBY,  
Old Mill House, La Hèche,  
St Anne, Alderney, Channel Islands.  
January 3.

From the Personal Adviser to the Governor of Hong Kong

Sir, In his article of December 29, headed "Why Tony Blair is looking East", Mr Denis MacShane wrongly states that the Governor of Hong Kong "appealed", in a recent lecture for Britain to bring central government expenditure down "to around 30 per cent of national earnings".

While Mr Patten advocated a cut in the State's take of national income, he did not specify a target; and he explicitly stated that he did not regard Hong Kong's level of public spending as a proportion of GDP as a realistic target for OECD countries.

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD LLEWELLYN,  
Personal Adviser to the Governor,  
Government House, Hong Kong.  
January 2.

## A safe place in Europe

From Mr Gordon M. L. Smith

Sir, Dr Peter Chapman (letter, December 23) writes that the Tories will lose the election because "thousands of their followers, such as myself, cannot accept the abnegation of sovereignty, the primacy of Parliament and our courts, which they seem happy to abandon".

So will Dr Chapman vote for Labour, who will be very happy to abnegate sovereignty, Parliament, courts, etc. or for the Liberal Democrats, who would grovel before Brussels?

Mr Major is skillfully negotiating to keep our liberties while profiting commercially from such aspects of the EU as are not completely corrupt.

Yours faithfully,  
GORDON M. L. SMITH,  
9 Greenfield Way,  
Storrington, West Sussex.

## Contradiction in terms

From Mr David Ravens

Sir, You describe Stephen Leacock (Anniversaries, December 30) as "humorous writer and economist". Surely, if the second term is accurate then the first is redundant?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID RAVENS,  
44 Arthursdale Grange,  
Scholes, West Yorkshire.  
December 30.

## Strife in Pakistan

From the High Commissioner for Pakistan

Sir, May I respond to two references to Pakistan's affairs which you have published recently, starting with the adverse comments by Mr Randhir Singh Bains (letter, December 29) on what he terms our "interference" in the Afghan civil war.

Pakistan, which is a developing country with little time for a "grand vision of establishing an Islamic bloc", has been host to all the factions of Mujahidin fighting the Soviet invaders of Afghanistan. Our own society was torn asunder by the influx of close to four million Afghan refugees and the consequent "kalashnikovisation" and "heroinisation". The members of the current regime in Kabul were also our guests for the long years of Soviet oc-

## Wastefulness of charity mailshots

From Mrs Eileen Bushell

Sir, I was glad to read Mr Adolphe Salem's letter of January 1 pointing out that charities often defeat the object of their appeals for funds by duplicating them.

As a life member of one charity for some 25 years, a member of its local committee and one who, at the charity's request, disclosed what I had left them in my will, I have become deluged with letters asking me to become a member or life member.

I wrote to the director enclosing some of the many letters I had received. Result: a Christmas card. But still I get appeals.

This time I have not put them in the waste-paper basket but into a sack. Eventually I will weigh them and maybe turn up at the annual general meeting with an assessment of the environmental damage they cause.

Can the Charities Act not be amended to rule not only that applicants for membership may insist that their identity and personal details are not passed or sold to other charities, but that no charity sends out appeals to its own members?

Yours sincerely,  
EILEEN BUSHELL,  
11 Fullands Court,  
Kingsway, Taunton, Somerset.  
January 1.

From the Director of the Wishbone Trust

Sir, This medical charity, supporting research into orthopaedic surgery and bone diseases, has two full-time staff

## Our cultural state

From Mr J. L. Cook

Sir, In his review of 1995 (December 30) your Arts Editor paints a dire picture of the British system of funding for the arts, and concludes by asking whether we have the thrust for culture.

We have an "Arts Council", and we have the grotesquely named "National Heritage" Department. We should scrap them both, at once, and declare our thrust by establishing a properly funded Ministry of Culture. Or are we ashamed of the very word?

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN COOK,  
4 Brookwell Gate,  
Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire.

From Mr Donald King

Sir, I enjoyed Richard Morrison's article about the state of culture in the country. He seems, however, to understand culture only in terms of what is delivered professionally to the public by theatre and opera companies.

## Wider goals

From Mr S. Carse

Sir, "Fifa plans to move goalposts in bid to entertain", you report (Sport, early editions, January 3).

Can football's international governing body really be serious? Can its "guardians" really be so disenchanted with the entertainment value of the world game, and so bereft of ideas, that the only proposal for change they can come up with is to enlarge the goals?

Apparently there will be a "trial period" using the bigger targets. But how is success or failure to be determined? I suspect that for Fifa there can only be one outcome. If more goals are scored this will be put forward as proof-positive that bigger goals mean more entertainment. If there is no significant increase then the larger goals

## Schools inspection

From the Leader of Wandsworth Council

Sir, What a relief it was to learn ("Checks on schools could be cut back", January 3) that the Government is at last acknowledging the enormous cost of its cumbersome Ofsted inspection programme.

This council has consistently advised that the single comprehensive inspection, in which Ofsted continues to place its confidence, is inexcusably expensive and takes no account of the differences in quality between schools, which we all know to exist. The backbone of the system should be a concise annual review carried out locally under national rules. There should be a second level of inspection when there is concern about a school. Teams of inspectors would go into a school at

and over 30,000 supporters throughout the UK, mostly former patients. Mailings are vital to us, both to keep our supporters in touch with what we are doing and to encourage further donations.

Though I would love to write personal letters, we are reliant on computers to help us for practical reasons. Every effort is made to save money by "deduplicating" — an awkward new word which is now part of the argot of computer technology.

Two problems can arise. Firstly, your correspondent might have responded to one appeal as Adolphe A. Salem, to the next as A. A. Salem, to the next as A. Salem, and so on through all the possible permutations: a charity might thus be unsure whether it is being supported by one person or by different members of a family. Secondly, and more commonly, there may have been a mechanical or computer error in printing.

To check 30,000 envelopes manually for duplication would be a waste of resources. We are reliant, in the final analysis, on the help of our supporters to tell us if duplicate mailings have crept through our checks. This information is received as gratefully as a donation by any charity keen to save money and improve its efficiency.

Yours faithfully,  
RUSSELL VALLANCE,  
Director,  
The Wishbone Trust,  
British Orthopaedic Association,  
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.  
January 2.

national orchestras, museums and galleries and the like.

All these activities are important and we would be the poorer without them. But he does not take account of the great quantity and variety of amateur cultural activity in the country. Everywhere, there are amateur musicians giving concerts, amateur dramatic companies putting on plays and pantomimes, amateur artists and craftsmen putting on shows.

Richard Morrison asks whether we still have a thirst for culture. On the basis of what ordinary people are doing for themselves, the answer I believe must be "Yes".

As regards the professional art world, I think many of us, from time to time, feel considerable doubt about the worth and integrity of some of its activities and suspect that it is primarily concerned with indulging itself.

Yours faithfully,  
DONALD KING,  
Greenways, Gray Road,  
Crookham Hill, Swanley, Kent.  
January 1.

will remain, on the basis that fears of goals being devalued have not been borne out.

The rationale for the change appears to be based on the improved physical attributes and capabilities of goalkeepers. But surely this is mirrored by similar improvements amongst outfield players. Moreover, with the advent of faster and tighter footballs, many with unpredictable flight, one might argue that (all other things being equal) scoring is now easier than ever before.

Presumably the final decision on this proposal rests with the various FAs worldwide. Can we rely on our own FA to help kick this ridiculous idea into touch?

Yours faithfully,  
S. CARSE,  
75 Cronk Coar, Douglas, Isle of Man.  
January 4.

short notice to inspect, report and make recommendations to the governing body about getting things back on course.

The third type of inspection, to be used only on rare occasions, would be similar to the current Ofsted model and should be reserved for those schools where a major investigative inquiry is necessary.

Perhaps we will now get a smaller central regulating body which will define standards clearly and give us an uncomplicated picture of what needs to be done to improve performance in all schools.

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD LISTER,  
Leader of Council,  
Leader's Room,  
The Town Hall,  
Wandsworth High Street, SW18.  
January 4.

The fact is, Sir, that Ms Bhutto's Government is a bulwark against those who turn and twist our beautiful religion to suit their own political ends by their mindless opposition to the present liberal regime.

Yours sincerely,  
WAJID SHAMSUL HASAN,  
High Commission for Pakistan,  
36 Lowndes Square, SW1.  
December 29.

## Hallmarks of a portrait painter

From Mr Michael Stanyon

Sir, Your obituary of Terence Cuneo (January 5) made no mention of his hallmark, the mouse, inevitably hidden in some appropriate spot, whatever the subject. Who could find the mouse first became a point of honour in our family.

Whilst enjoying hunting through the wealth of detail in any of Cuneo's paintings we would look forward to standing back to see his painting as a whole. His sense of atmosphere conjured up the occasion so well that one could almost smell the smoke or feel the wind on one's cheeks.

The inevitable mouse fleeing from the speeding locomotive or sitting in the engineer's clothing, on the buffers, or even with coronet and ermine at a State Opening of Parliament, always added a subtle dimension of humour. We shall miss his talent.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL STANYON,  
3 Acrewood,  
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.  
January 5.

From Mr Brian West

Sir, In January, 1965, with Winston Churchill's body lying in state in Westminster Hall, Terence Cuneo woke one night with the conviction that he just had to record the scene. The Lord Chamberlain's Office were somewhat taken aback by his early morning call, but thanks to his standing in official circles, permission was granted for him to do his preliminary sketches that day. The large and impressive canvas subsequently went on an extensive tour of the United States.

Your obituary mentioned his liking for riding western-style when in the US (he was very proud of being an honorary marshal of Tombstone). He also did this around his home at East Molesey, Surrey, on a splendid palomino with silver-tooled saddle, sunglasses, etc. and regularly appeared like this for local charity events.

One of his best friends and "pupils" for many years was the Canadian singer, Edmund Hockridge, who helped on a number of large, special event canvases by "filling in the dark bits".

Yours etc,  
BRIAN WEST,  
Hapsturwydd,  
21 Old London Road, Flint.  
January 5.

From Mr Kevin McCormack

Sir, Most of Terence Cuneo's splendid railway paintings, some of which featured on British stamps issued in the 1980s, depicted steam trains. However, he also painted a wide variety of modern diesels, including Le Shuttle — with one mouse waving the Union Jack in the left-hand corner of the painting and another mouse waving the Tricolor in the right.

Yours faithfully,  
KEVIN MCCORMACK,  
13 Overdale, Ashstead, Surrey.  
January 5.

From Mr Allen Levy

Sir, Terence Cuneo had a passion for railways.

He travelled throughout the world and everywhere would sketch and paint the local railway scene. Some of his finest work will be remembered in a series of posters for British Railways from 1947 onwards. He was undoubtedly the "Munnings" of the iron horse.

As his publisher over some twenty years, I feel sure that Terry would have been somewhat irked by this omission from your obituary.

Yours faithfully,  
ALLEN LEVY,  
New Cavendish Books Limited,  
3 Denbigh Road, W11.  
January 5.

From Mr William Haddow

Sir, I have spent 30 minutes peering over your obituary of Terence Cuneo, but still can't find the mouse. Where have you hidden it?

Yours, puzzled,  
WILLIAM HADDOW,  
22 Keir Street, Glasgow 41.  
January 5.

## Time was when . . .

From Mr William Callaghan

Sir, I take Mr Patrick Howarth's point (letter, December 28); clearly the task of sporting new "in" phrases is down to us.

Hopefully an informal system of surveillance could soon be up and running. We can keep an eye on what is happening out there. Hidden agenda or not, let's go for it.

Know what I mean?

Yours sincerely,  
WILLIAM CALLAGHAN,  
13 Wharmcliffe Close,  
Hoyland, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.  
January 1.

## Mobile menace

From Mr Steve Race

Sir, Does anyone market a device for jamming mobile phones in trains or restaurants?

Yours etc,  
STEVE RACE,  
Westcot,  
Mariners End Lane,  
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.  
January 4.





## COURT CIRCULAR

## SANDRINGHAM

January 6: Today, being the Feast of the Epiphany, a Sung Eucharist was held in the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, when the customary offerings of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh were made on behalf of The Queen and the Prince of Wales. The Queen's Chaplain, the Reverend Canon Cook-Priest (Gentleman Usher to Her Majesty), the Rev William Booth (Sub-Dan of her Majesty's Chapels Royal) was the Celebrant and presented the Offerings, assisted by the Reverend Gordon Watkins (Priest in Ordinary).

The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard was on duty in the Chapel.

**SANDRINGHAM**  
January 7: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

The Ven John Wilson read the lesson and Mr John Bird, brother-in-law, read from the works of John Donne. Her Majesty presented The Queen's Gold Medal for Academic Excellence at King Edward VII High School, King's Lynn, to Master Matthew Webber Smith, who was introduced into Her Majesty's presence by Mr Michael Walker, the Headmaster.

## Royal engagement

The Duke of Kent will open an exhibition of paintings of Brazil at Christie's Great Rooms, King Street, at 6.45.

## Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11am. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

## Dinner

**Medical Officers of Schools Association**  
Lord Weatherill, accompanied by Lady Weatherill, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Medical Officers of Schools Association held on Saturday at Sevenoaks School, Kent. Dr Robin Fawcett-Corbett, president, was in the chair.

## Billy Marsh

A Memorial Service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Billy Marsh, 1917-1995, will be held at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London, W1, on Monday, February 5, at 11.00am. Donations will be gratefully accepted in memory of Billy at Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8QG.

## Party

**The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress**  
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained children and guests with the City Institutions, the City Livery Companies, HM Forces and London Boroughs at a fancy dress party held on Saturday at the Mansion House.

## Memorial service

**The Right Rev Gerald Colin**  
A memorial service for the Right Rev Gerald Colin was held on Saturday in Lincoln Cathedral. The Bishop of Lincoln officiated, assisted by the Dean of Lincoln.

The Ven John Wilson read the lesson and Mr John Bird, brother-in-law, read from the works of John Donne. Her Majesty presented The Queen's Gold Medal for Academic Excellence at King Edward VII High School, King's Lynn, to Master Matthew Webber Smith, who was introduced into Her Majesty's presence by Mr Michael Walker, the Headmaster.

## Sir Trenchard Cox

A Memorial Service for Sir Trenchard Cox will be held at St Martin-in-the-Fields at 10.30am on Wednesday, January 17.



Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, with Canon Gerry Murphy, Chaplain of the Tower of London, left, and Canon Colin Fletcher, the archbishop's personal chaplain, attending an Epiphany service at the Tower yesterday

## Royal Ascot

The Royal Meeting will take place at Ascot on June 18-21, 1996. The list for applications for the Royal Enclosure is now open and Her Majesty's Representative wishes to draw your attention to the changes concerning the issue of vouchers to young people.

The age limit for junior vouchers has been raised to include all those aged between 16 and 24 years. The dates of birth must be stated in the letter of application.

Only personal letters of application will be accepted. Existing members should apply, as usual, before the end of April. All those wishing to apply for the first time should make an application before the end of March stating the full names of those members of their

family who require vouchers, together with their dates of birth if between 16 and 24 years. Sponsorship forms will then be sent which should be signed by a sponsor who has been present in the Royal Enclosure for a minimum of eight years.

Overseas visitors should apply direct to their Embassies in London. In the enclosure ladies will wear formal day dress with hat which must cover the crown of the head. Gentlemen will wear morning dress with top hat, or service dress. Applications should be addressed to Her Majesty's Representative, The Ascot Office, St James's Palace, London SW1A 1BP.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Philip Astley, theatre manager, Newcastle-under-Lyme, 1742; Wilkie Collins, novelist, 1824; Hans von Bulow, pianist and conductor, Dresden, 1830; Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, painter, The Netherlands, 1836; John Curtin, Australian Prime Minister 1941-45, Cresswell, Victoria, 1885; Solomon Bandman, Prime Minister of Ceylon 1956-59, Colombo, 1899; Elvis Presley, singer, Tupelo, Mississippi, 1935; Dennis Wheatley, novelist, 1897.

**DEATHS:** Edgar, King of Scotland reigned 1097-1107, Edinburgh Castle, 1107; Giotto, painter, Florence, 1337; Galileo Galilei, mathematician and astronomer, Arcetri, Italy, 1642; Arangelo Corelli, composer, Rome, 1713; John Baskerville, typographer and printer, London, 1785; El Whitney, pioneer of the cotton gin, New Haven, Connecticut, 1825; Robert Stephenson, engineer, 1803; Baron Baden-Powell, general and founder of the Boy Scouts, Nyeri, Kenya, 1941; Richard Tauber, tenor, Australia, 1948; Kurt Schwitters, painter, Little Langdale, Cumbria, 1948; Chou En-lai, Premier of the People's Republic of China 1949-76, Peking, 1976.

Rationing of butter, bacon and sugar began, 1940.  
General Charles de Gaulle was proclaimed President of the French Republic, 1959.  
Spain ended its siege of Gibraltar and reopened the frontier, 1982.

## School announcements

1996, and the programme will include Mahler's 1st Symphony. This concert will then be repeated at Leeds Town Hall on February 16, 1996. Term ends on March 30, 1996, with Founder's Day in Manchester Cathedral, when the Prayers will be read by the Bishop of Hull, the Right Rev James Jones.

**Cobham Hall**  
The Spring Term begins today. Camilla Cowan continues as Headmistress. Prep School Heads are invited to visit the school on Tuesday, February 6, at 5.00pm. The Peter Newton Entrance Scholarships for Sixth Formers will be held on March 2, 1996. Music and Drama Events may be obtained from the Headmistress's Secretary. Exat is from Friday, February 16, to Tuesday, February 20. The Quarter ends on Saturday, March 16.

**Haileybury & ISC**  
Easter Term at Haileybury begins today. The Right Rev Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans, has succeeded the Right Rev John Taylor as President of Council. Chairman of the Government of the Middle School Play A Midsummer Night's Dream will be performed on March 1 and 2. Mr Anthony Hopkins, CBE, will give a Lecture Recital on March 5 and a

Masterclass on March 6. The Easter Concert will be on Friday and Saturday, March 8 and 9, and the School Confirmation Service is at All Saints on Thursday, March 10. The Ski Expedition departs on Saturday, March 16, and the French Exchange Group to Montpellier on Monday, April 8.

**Oakham School**  
Spring Term at Oakham School begins today. Music and Art & Design Scholarship Examinations for 11- and 13-year-olds will be held on Saturday, February 10, and the Scholarship Examinations for 13-year-olds will be held on February 12, 13 and 14. The Oakham School Symphony Orchestra will perform Shostakovich's Symphony No 5 on February 29. On Sunday, March 10, the School Choir will perform the Vaughan Williams Mass in G and the Fauré Requiem.

**Pipers Corner School, High Wycombe**  
The Spring Term begins today at Pipers Corner with 350 pupils. Sixth Form Scholarship examinations will take place on Monday and Tuesday, January 22 and 23, with interviews on Wednesday.

**Pocklington School, York**  
The Lent Term at Pocklington School, York, begins today. Old Pocklingtonian Dinners will take place in the school on Saturday, February 10, and Newcastle on Saturday, March 2 - times and venues to be confirmed. The term ends on Thursday, March 21, 1996.

**Woodbridge School**  
The Easter Term at Woodbridge School begins today. The Official Opening of the new All Weather Pitch will be on February 13. Science Week begins with a Science and Technology Fair on March 16: the Biennial Concert at the Snape Maltings Concert Hall on March 22. The Old Woodbridgian Dinner on March 23 and the One Day Equestrian Event at Poplar Park on March 24. Details of all these occasions can be obtained from the School, 01994 385577.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr M.S.S. Bird and Miss H.J. Kimpton**  
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Bird, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and Helen, only daughter of Mr G.P. Kimpton, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, and Mrs S.A. Kimpton, of Hayfield, Derbyshire.

**Mr J.B.G. Corbett and Miss Z.A.M. Maidment**  
The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr and Mrs James Corbett, of the Isle of Mull, Argyll, and Zara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Maidment, of Little Wratting, Suffolk.

**Mr C.E.E. de Havas and Miss N.Z. Jones**  
The engagement is announced between Christopher Frederic Eric, only son of Mr and Mrs W. de Havas, of Little Parrock Farm, Colchester, Essex, and Nicola-Zoe, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Jones, of Peacehaven, East Sussex.

**Mr R.P. Haywood and Miss A. Carmichael**  
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Edwin Jeffrey Haywood, of Georgetown, Guyana, and Annabel, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Carmichael, of Welford, Wiltshire.

**Mr P.D. Heary and Miss G. Ravenscroft**  
The engagement is announced between Patrick Denis, son of the late Denis Valentine Henry and of Mrs Elizabeth Henry, of London, and Emma, daughter of the late Major John Sturt and of Mrs Sturt, of St Crepin de Richemont, France.

**Mr D.A. Hurron and Miss H.M. Anstee**  
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs K.J. Hurron, of Disley, Cheshire, and Mary, daughter of the late Mr E.C.M. Anstee and of Mrs J.M. Anstee, of Alderley Edge, Cheshire.

**Mr A.J.C. Jeffrey and Miss E.C. Trigg**  
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of the late Mr C. Jeffrey and of Mrs John Lee and stepson of Mr John Lee, of Somerset, and Emma, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Denis Trigg, of Durham.

**Mr M.C.B. Lazi and Miss C.J. Barker**  
The engagement is announced between Michele, eldest son of Signor and Signora L. Lazi, of Rome, Italy, and Carolyn, only daughter of Mr J. Barker, of Whipsnade, Bedfordshire, and of Mrs M. Barker, of Markyate, Hertfordshire.

**Mr R. Orr Ewing and Miss A. Obeid**  
The engagement is announced between Robert Charles, younger son of Mr and Mrs C.D. Orr Ewing, of Wigtown, Scotland, and Amani, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Obeid, of Harborne, Birmingham.

**Mr J.P. Riley and Miss R.J. Ayres**  
The engagement is announced between Jason, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Riley, of Worpleston, Surrey, and Rebecca, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Ayres, of Hestley Mill, Devon.

**Mr T.E. Robinson and Miss J.E. Standish**  
The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of Colonel and Mrs Richard Robinson, of New Wimpole, Cambridge, and Jane Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Standish, of Woking, Surrey.

**Mr A.W.W. Tang, FRACS (Orth), and Miss K. Kiehlinska**  
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Dr K.Y. Tang, of Melbourne, Australia, and Karina, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs O.J. Kiehlinski, of Brussels and Chislehurst, Hampshire.

**Mr M.R. Watts and Miss E.S.M. Sturt**  
The engagement is announced between Marcus, son of Mr and Mrs Reginald Watts, of West Hill, London, and Emma, daughter of the late Major John Sturt and of Mrs Sturt, of St Crepin de Richemont, France.

**Mr L.G. de Pelet and Miss R.E.C. Palmer**  
The marriage took place on December 30, at Holy Innocents Church, Foulsham, Norfolk, between Mr Louis de Pelet and Miss Rebecca Palmer.

The bride was attended by The Naomi Swain and Harriet Cole. Mr Mark Hopkins was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent in Italy.

**Mr C.L. Hansard and the Hon Mrs Joanna Wood**  
The marriage took place on December 22, at the Anglican Cathedral, Zurich, between Mr Charles Hansard, of Louth, Ireland, son of the late Mr H.L. Hansard and of Mrs O.A. Hansard, and the Hon Mrs Joanna Wood, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Pinches, of Ramsbury, Wiltshire.

## Birthdays today

Miss Shirley Bassey, singer, 59; Mr David Bowie, singer, 49; Mr Robert Kennedy, former US Senator, 60; Mr Phil Hall, Editor, News of the World, 41; Professor Stephen Hawking, CH, theoretical physicist, 54; Lord Hollenden, 82; Mr Andrew Hunter, MP, 53; Mr Howard Jones, former Governor, Northern Ireland, 60; the Right Rev E.G. Knapp-Fisher, former Archdeacon of Westminster, 81; Professor Sir Robert May, FRS, zoologist, former director, RAF Nursing Services, 72; Mr Ron Moody, actor, 72; Mr Robert Parry, MP, 63; Mr D.E. Prince, Headmaster, Reed's School, Surrey, 58; Mr Ken Purchase, MP, 57; Mrs L.M. Read, MEP, 57; Professor W.B. Reddaway, economist, 83; Mr Robert A. Solberg, chairman, Texaco, 50; Miss Galina Ulanova, prima ballerina, 86; Sir Geoffrey Whalen, former deputy chairman, Peugeot Talbot Motor Company, 60; Professor A.G. Wilson, Vice-Chancellor, Leeds University, 57.

## Latest wills

Mrs Winifred Alice Coulson, of London SW10, the writer of children's books and a founder and president of the Women's Council, left estate valued at £1,594,030 net. She left £5,000 to the Women's Council.

Mrs Mair Bissell, of Christchurch, Dorset, (6909/925)

Mr Douglas Blackmore, of Sheen, Staffs, late company director, 874,431

Nature notes are on page 19 today

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul. The Lord's instruction makes the simple wise. Psalm 19: 7 (GEO)

## BIRTHS

**GADZOW** - On January 2nd at St Thomas's Hospital, to Jessica Jane Collins and Ian, a son, Alexander James Scott.

**ELANEY** - On December 29th, to Victoria (née Robinson) and Robert, a son, Harry Robert, a brother for Alice.

**GAGE** - On January 4th, to Anna (née Robinson) and Jonathan, a son, Edward Michael Quinn.

**HARRISON** - On January 4th, to Sarah (née Gadd) and Simon, a son, Rupert Edward John, a brother for Emily.

**HUGHES-DOWLING** - On January 6th, to David (née Dowling) and Paula, a son, James Robert.

**MALCOLM-DOWLING** - On January 6th, to David (née Dowling) and Paula, a son, James Robert.

**GRAM** - On December 30th, to Helen (née Graham) and William, a son, William Henry.

**WOODLEY** - On Christmas Eve 1995, to Jack and Polly (née Wetherall), a son, James Philip, a brother for Emily.

## DEATHS

**ANDREW** - John Andrew (Hurt) of Little Eddon, Derbyshire died peacefully on Wednesday 30th December 1995, aged 85. He was a loving and much loved father and grandfather. He will be missed by all. Burial at 11.30am on 16th January at Little Eddon Parish Church.

**GALL** - Dr Angela Rosemary Gall MBE, of 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 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## OBITUARIES

## ADMIRAL ARLEIGH BURKE

Admiral Arleigh Burke, wartime US Navy destroyer commander, died on January 1 aged 94. He was born on October 19, 1901.

ALTHOUGH the naval war in the Far East is generally thought of as having been a long-range duel between the aircraft of rival carrier groups, it also gave rise to some of the most fiercely fought surface actions in any theatre. For his successes in such battles — often breathtaking, high-speed affairs conducted at night against a backdrop of palm-fringed tropical islands — Arleigh Burke made himself the most celebrated destroyer skipper in the US Navy.

The intensity of these actions owed much to the well-matched nature of the forces involved. Unlike naval operations in the European and Atlantic theatres, which were, from the British point of view, essentially a dour defensive struggle to preserve supply lines, the Pacific saw a clash between modern navies conducted in the spirit of a fiery offensive.

The characters of the contestants lent much to this atmosphere: the Japanese, resourceful, brave and conscious that they must score a quick knockout blow before the still dormant industrial might of their opponents could be aroused; the Americans, pugnacious, determined to avenge gallant defeats and confident that they possessed the capacity to encompass that end. Inflicting, not avoiding, damage was at the forefront of consciousness on both sides. Both navies, too, possessed large destroyer fleets of modern, well-armed vessels, considerably more powerfully gunned than most of those of Britain and Germany.

Burke had a considerable reputation as a ship and squadron handler before the war started. But he set the seal on it in the sea battles of the Solomon campaign of late 1943. Thereafter he took part in the decisive actions of the Philippines which finally destroyed the Japanese Navy. After the war he rose to become Chief of Naval Operations, a post in which he served for an unprecedented three terms.

Arleigh Burke was born in Boulder, Colorado, and educated locally and at Columbus, Missouri, before attending the US Naval Academy at Annapolis. He later took an engineering degree at the University of Michigan. Before the war he served in a number of sea appointments, gaining wide experience in battleships, cruisers and destroyers. But it was in a shore appointment in Washington when Pearl Harbor was attacked, and had great difficulty getting back to sea.

It was not until early in 1943 that he was sent to the South Pacific where the combative Admiral "Bull" Halsey had not long been in command. In the interminable sea-fighting off Guadalca-



nal the previous November, Halsey had demonstrated to the Japanese that their days of supremacy in the sphere of destroyer actions was over, and that they could expect stern opposition from the ships of the US Navy.

One of the principal instruments of this new-found aggressiveness was Burke, who was appointed to command Squadron 23, soon to become known as the "Little Beavers" in title having nothing to do with their diligence, but referring to a well-known American comic strip character. Meanwhile, Burke's penchant for taking his squadron into battle at the highest speed possible in any given set of circumstances earned him the nickname "31-knot Burke".

Towards the end of 1943 the desperate fighting which had begun at Guadalcanal in mid-1942 was rolling towards the northwestern end of the Solomon archipelago, where the Japanese were making their last stand. In November 1943, Squadron 23 scored two of its most resounding victories, the first off Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville, where the American ships proved by their devastating use of torpedo attacks that they had shrugged off an earlier tendency to be

wary of Japanese superiority in that department (The Japanese 21-inch, oxygen-powered Long Lance torpedo was one of the best of the war.) In No 23's second action, on November 25, 1943, it intercepted a force which was trying to reinforce the very last Japanese outpost, on Buka Island, at the tip of the Solomons. In a brisk night battle off Cape St George, New Ireland, Burke's ships sank three Japanese destroyers in what proved a triumphant American finale to the Solomons campaign.

In March 1944 Burke went as chief of staff to Admiral Marc Mitscher, commander of US Task Force 58. Although it was a leap for a destroyer man to go to air operations, Burke was no hidebound "salt horse" (not actually a US Navy term, but one which in RN parlance describes a committed staff man). As an engineer by profession he loved the application of innovative technology to warfare and threw himself wholeheartedly into the art of developing naval airpower.

This was now to be seen at its most devastating in the Battle of the Philippine Sea. When, on the morning of June 19, 1944, the Japanese detected Task Force 58 without having been

discovered themselves, they fondly imagined themselves to be in a position to strike a crippling blow against the Americans. But they had reckoned without the magnificent radar cover enjoyed by the US Navy, and its capacity to deliver shrewd counter-punches. Most of the 370 aircraft the Japanese launched never came anywhere near Task Force 58. Thanks to the superb co-operation between Mitscher and Burke, American naval fighters intercepted the Japanese attackers 50 miles out from the task force and wreaked havoc on them. Those few that penetrated the fighter screen entered a maelstrom of anti-aircraft fire which took further toll of their numbers. The Japanese lost 240 aircraft, compared with an American figure of 29, a total so disproportionate that the day has become enshrined in the annals of American naval aviation as "the Great Marianas Turkey Shoot".

Burke served in Task Force 58 virtually to the end of the war in the Pacific, seeing action in most of the major battles, including that of the Leyte Gulf which finally broke the Imperial Japanese Navy. He was aboard the aircraft carrier *Bunker Hill* when she was hit by a kamikaze plane off Okinawa in May 1945, and was decorated for his bravery in extricating the wounded from burning wreckage. After the war he fell into disfavour for a while for his participation in the 1949 "admirals' revolt" against Pentagon plans to place what he thought was an undue reliance on the giant Convair B36 bomber as a method of exercising strategic power. (An eccentric design with six "pusher" piston engines, it was anyway not a great success and was soon superseded by the Boeing B47 and B52 jet bombers.)

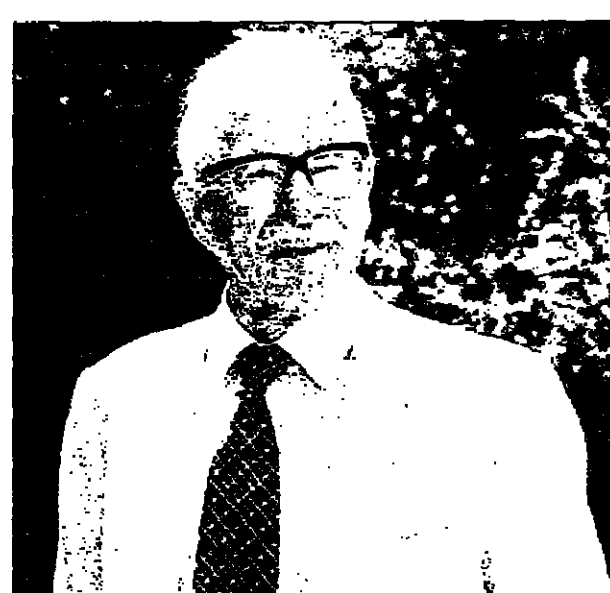
Burke believed that the carrier task group should be a central plank in US strategic thinking, and once the cloud over him had been dispelled he was able to put his ideas into effect. In 1955 he was appointed Chief of Naval Operations by President Eisenhower over the head of large numbers of competitors for the office, and held it until 1961. Those were the years which saw the development of the US Navy into an unmatched global striking force, with its large aircraft carriers, nuclear hunter-killer and Polaris submarines and a highly versatile amphibious arm. President Kennedy asked him to stay on for a fourth term, but he retired to take up a strategic studies post at Georgetown University.

In 1989 he had the satisfaction of having the first of a class of powerful guided missile destroyers named after him when *USS Arleigh Burke* was launched from the Bath Ironworks, in Maine.

He is survived by his wife Roberta ("Bobbie"). They had no children.

## ERNEST WHITEMORE

Ernest Whitmore, MM and Bar, Under-Secretary, Department of Health and Social Security, 1973-76, died on December 31 aged 79. He was born on August 31, 1916.



A ROBUST man of great energy and determination, Ernest Whitmore played a leading role during his Civil Service career in implementing some of the important decisions which were made about the state pension scheme and its relationship with other schemes in the 1960s and 1970s. He was a man whose career demonstrated that success in the top ranks of the Civil Service is by no means the preserve of those with an Oxbridge education.

In 1934, straight from Raine's Foundation Grammar School in Stepney, he joined the civilian staff at New Scotland Yard as a clerical officer, and in the following year he was transferred as an executive officer to the pensions side of the Ministry of Health, where he remained until 1942. During this period, he was working for a degree in the evening department of King's College London. He graduated in English with first-class honours and for this performance was awarded the Brewer Prize by his College.

Having initially been rejected for military service on grounds of poor eyesight, he succeeded in joining the Royal Artillery in 1942 and gave valuable service in the North African and Italian campaigns, reaching the rank of lieutenant in 1944, after the Battle of Cassino, he was awarded the Military Medal, to which a Bar was added a year later, after the fall of the Gothic Line.

On his return to the Civil Service in 1945, he was assigned to the newly-formed Ministry of National Insurance and remained in that department and successor departments until his retirement as an Under-Secretary in 1976. Throughout his career, good use was made of his ability to carry through difficult and urgent administrative tasks with expedition and accuracy.

When a contracting-out facility was introduced into the state pension scheme in 1961 by Mr John (now Lord) Boyd-Carpenter, Whitmore was a leading member of the group of civil servants made responsible for the detailed planning and implementation of the new arrangements. This experience stood him in good stead in the 1970s when, as an Under-Secretary, he was again engaged in working on the integration of the state pension scheme with occupational schemes. This work involved extensive consultation with experts from the wider pensions world, by whom he soon became much respected.

As an Assistant Secretary, he had been seconded for a short period to the Children's Department of the Home Office, in anticipation of the transfer of its work to the Department of Health and Social Security. Here also he showed his remarkable drive and dependability by meeting almost impossible deadlines. Though a man of great sensitivity, he remained unflustered whatever the pressure.

He had a searching mind, and the intellectual energy he displayed in his work extended also to his leisure pursuits. As a soldier in North Africa he had devoted off-duty hours to learning Arabic, and his linguistic contacts with a univer-

sity professor in Algiers attracted the attention of the military police lest he should have become entangled in some sort of espionage. While serving in the Italian campaign, he learnt Italian, and discovered Dante. He retained a love of Italy and of things Italian for the rest of his life — becoming, with his wife, a keen member of the British-Italian Society and of the Italian Institute. It was typical of him that, on his retirement from the Civil Service, when asked by his colleagues to choose a retirement present, he chose to have a large Garzanti dictionary and a fine Italian edition of Dante's works.

A committed Christian, he was an active member of the Church of England, with a strong leaning towards ecumenism. He also dedicated himself to the work of the United Nations Association. He was much involved in activities in the local community and was an energetic collector for the United Nations Association and other good causes. He made himself a highly competent bookbinder, and devoted a great deal of attention to his much-loved garden where he grew sweet peas and in consequence became a keen member of the National Sweet Pea Society.

He is survived by his wife Mollie, and two daughters.

## MALISE NICOLSON

Malise Nicolson, MC, President of the General Council of British Shipping during the Falklands war, died from cancer on December 22 aged 74. He was born on October 31, 1921.

IT WAS unusual for someone from a small shipping company to become President of the General Council of British Shipping. Malise Nicolson had been chairman of the Booker Line for many years, and he used his term of office, 1982-83, which coincided with the Falklands War, to reorganise an overweight organisation. After the end of the conflict he tried to persuade the Government of the day to support British shipping in order to be able to mount a task force at sea again. This did not endear him to the powers that be, something which did not worry him.

Malise Allen Nicolson was born in Calcutta, the son of Sir Kenneth Nicolson and Milgrom Shutelesworth, whose father, Allen Thornton Shutelesworth had fought in the Indian Mutiny in 1857. He left Eton at the outbreak of the Second World War determined to join the Army. But being too young for the British Army, he went out to India and joined Probyn's Horse, arguably the finest cavalry regiment in the Indian Army. They were still horsed when he joined but were mechanised in the early 1940s and took part in the Burma campaign. Nicolson was a squadron leader at the age of 22 and saw fierce fighting in the dash to, and the capture of, Meiktila.

In these operations he was awarded the Military Cross. He transferred to The Royal Dragoons in 1946 and left the Army in 1947 with the rank of major. He then returned to India and worked for the shipping agents Gladstone Lyle in Calcutta. However, believing that there was no future in India, he returned to this country in 1955. He joined Booker Bros in Liverpool in 1956 and became chairman of

Recognised for his ability, he was appointed to various boards: he was a government-appointed director of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board 1974-80, and latterly a CBI-appointed director of the National Dock Labour Scheme 1986-90, for the reason that he wanted to see it abolished — which it was.

He had always been a keen horseman and a bruising rider across the Wymrynny country. He turned his attention to racing and breeding once he had the time. He was chairman of Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse from 1984 to 1994, and there is no doubt that its present position as a profitable and popular racecourse is entirely due to him.

The Racecourse Association soon realised his worth and made him one of its directors and the Midland area chairman, 1984-90. He was one of the few who visualised the potential of SIS (Satellite Information Services) which has been the lifeblood of many small racecourses over the last few years.

He was also a noted breeder of Section B Welsh ponies and of Gloucester cattle, one of the oldest rare breeds in the country. Malise Nicolson could not abide either pomposity or incompetence, nor did he look for preference. He left his mark on the many facets of his life through his ability, integrity, energy and courage.

His courage was never more in evidence than during his last long illness.

He is survived by his wife Vivien, a son and two daughters.



## RAMÓN VINAY

Ramón Vinay, South American tenor and baritone, died in Puebla, Mexico, on January 4 aged 83. He was born in Chillán, Chile, on August 31, 1912.

RAMÓN VINAY made his Jovet Garden debut in September 1950 during a short season given there by La Scala, Milan. It was the Scala's first postwar visit to London and, under the command of Victor de Sabata, the company made sure it was a very glossy affair. The leading Italian singers of the day were in display: Caniglia, Carosio, Agliavini, Gobbi, Silveri, Iepi. But for the title role of Verdi's *Otello* Milan turned to the Chilean tenor, Ramón Vinay. He had already opened the Scala's first season after the war in the same role and the company had every reason to stay with him.

De Sabata might have been the star of that September evening at the Opera House, but Vinay had a considerable access. So, too, did a little-known soprano, also making her London debut, called Enza Tebaldi. In the decade which followed the war Vinay was the world's leading tello, dominating the role in a way that Domingo has one in his generation. For some of the credit must go to Arturo Toscanini. The conductor seized on Vinay after he had taken over as *Otello* in 46 at the Metropolitan Opera in New York at a few

hours' notice from an ailing Torsten Ralf. Toscanini immediately signed him for one of the series of opera concerts he was to give with the NBC Symphony Orchestra in six months' time.

Tenor and maestro worked intensively together and the Vinay *Otello* was born: a ferocious study in wounded masculinity. Vinay looked like a Mediterranean warrior and matched this with the musical intelligence to show the vulnerability of Verdi's hero. He was a fine actor with an impressive physique and had an inbred ability to portray honesty on stage.

The Toscanini recording, which came out on the RCA label, has rarely been out of the catalogue. Later Jon Vickers was to give a very similar *Otello* and both men used the instantly recognisable timbre of their voices to impressive effect. Vinay was to sing *Otello* several hundred times before, in 1962, he turned baritone and took up the role of Iago instead.

Ramón Vinay was born of French and Italian parentage and spent his early years in Chile. He took no singing lessons there, but did study the violin. In 1922 the family moved to Dignes in France and Vinay was earmarked for a career in either engineering or the family business. His father sent him off to Mexico where, it was reckoned, the job prospects would be better for his multilingual son. This was

an error of judgment and Vinay had to scratch what living he could. But he did frequent the local French Club and caught someone's ear by singing the *Marseillaise* on Bastille Day.

He started taking singing lessons and made his first stage appearance with a local amateur company as Alfonso.



Vinay as Otello

the King of Castile, in Donizetti's *La favorita*. He was firmly classed as a baritone and made his professional debut after winning a radio competition, also in Mexico City, as *di Luna* in *Il trovatore*. In his early thirties Vinay divided his time between opera and business, but it was becoming clear where his loyalties lay.

In 1943 he became co-manager of a small opera company and one evening when the Turiddu refused to go on in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Vinay, already an old trouper by the age of 31, took the role himself. The baritone became a tenor.

He was engaged by the Mexico City Opera for roles which included *Otello* and Don José before being whisked off to New York to the City Opera for a similar repertory. From there it was a short step to The Met. José was his debut part for both companies and marked the first of his series of portrayals of honest men who believe themselves spurned. Canio in *Pagliacci* was to follow shortly and Saint-Saëns's Samson not long after. Vinay became a great favourite at The Met, staying there for 15 seasons until 1961.

The robust, baritone qualities of Vinay's voice inevitably led him into the Wagner repertory. He was first engaged at Bayreuth in 1952 and continued to sing there until 1957. He returned to the festival in 1962 for *Tristan und Isolde*, so becoming one of the few artists to sing both major tenor and baritone roles at the festival.

His other Wagner tenor heroes included Tannhäuser, Parsifal, Tristan and Siegmund. It was in that latter role he made his debut with the Royal Opera Company in October 1953. Radames, not one of Vinay's star interpretations, had been scheduled

earlier but the opera was cancelled. Vinay's Siegmund was heard in Britain, both in London and when the company was on tour in the regions, throughout the 1950s, and it was the part in which he made his last appearance at the Garden in October 1959. In between there were two dozen *Otellos* and, in 1958, a brief glimpse of his Tristan.

Ramón Vinay made his Salzburg debut in 1951, inevitably as *Otello*, in a performance conducted by Wilhelm Furtwängler and with Paul Schöffler as Iago. He came back fifteen years later for a single appearance as Escamillo in *Carmen*, so completing, as at Bayreuth, his tenor-baritone double.

His readiness to take on the heaviest roles in the tenor repertoire, with little light relief, apart from Lenky in *Eugene Onegin* and occasional forays into Puccini with Des Grieux in *Manon Lescaut*, led to wear on the voice. The top notes never came easily, especially when sung softly, although Vinay had an adroit way around the floated close of the Flower Song in *Carmen*. This was almost certainly why Vinay reverted to baritone after fifty. He concentrated on mainstream Italian opera with roles such as Scarpia, Rigoletto and Falstaff. He retired from singing in 1969 and for a couple of years administered the Santiago Opera.

He is survived by a son and a daughter.

## Church news

Appointments: Rev Simon Starkey, chaplain at Chester College; be Team Vicar, St Bride's, Liverpool (Liverpool); Rev David Stranges, Cus. Bitterne; to be Vicar Fair (Winchester); Rev Elizabeth Thomas, Oceanan Children's Work Adviser and an Assistant Curate, Aldon (Bradford); to be vicar-in-charge, Denholme; and continue as Diocesan Children's Work Adviser, the diocese. Rev Robert Ward, Team vicar in charge of St James', w Bradwell in the Ecumenical Parish of Stantonry (Oxford); to be Vicar, St Martin, Knowle (Bristol). Rev David Brentnall, vicar, Stevenage St Peter ad Water; to be Vicar, St Marys St Peter (St Albans).

The Rev Donald Brockbank, Vicar, Atrincham St John and Diocesan Urban Officer (Chester); to be Ecumenical Officer and Associate Minister, Lichfield St Michael (w St Mary and St John Wall) (Lichfield). The Rev John Downs, Curate (NSM), Barlstone; to be Curate (NSM), Thornton, Bagworth and Stanton, w permission to officiate at Markfield (Leicester). The Rev Dr Gordon Edwards; to be Honorary Curate, St Paul, Chippingham w Hardenhuish and Langley Burrell and Kingston St Michael (Bristol). Retirement: The Rev Thomas Hindley, Rector, Christ Church, Harpurhey and St Stephen, Harpurhey (Manchester); to retire December 31.

## Nature notes

HERONS are coming back to their bulky nests in the tree tops. The pair stand side by side on the nest, and the female tinkers with the rearrangement of a few twigs, but they will not seriously start repairing the nest for a week or two. Magpies are gathering in excited parties in the trees, chattering and then flying off in long lines: these are thought to be mainly young birds that are preparing to mate and take up territories.

One or two blackbirds have begun to sing softly at dusk on a mild day, but most of them will not be heard till February. Great tits are singing their two-note song — "teacher, teacher" — in woods and gardens, and coal tits singing their more rapid version of it among the conifers. Downy,



The heron

blueish-green leaves are opening on the honeysuckle: it twines itself round the boughs of young trees, and sometimes its stems wind round each other to form a stout cable. Under the trees, the autumn leaves lying on the ground have turned dark in the rain and are beginning to rot: earthworms drag them for food into their holes. DJM

## A BOX OF CHOCOLATES

By H.V. Morton

A man with the high, bald forehead of a stage chemist stood in the Greenford Factory (where Lyons Chocolates come from) holding a small test tube to the light. There was something grim in his preoccupation. I have seen the same expression on the faces of doctors and scientists who believe that they are on the verge of isolating a new germ.

His spectacles glittered passionately, it seemed, as the fluid in the test tube changed colour. Swiftly he added another liquid, shook the tube, anxiously smelt it, examined it, and then, dipping into it a thin glass rod, tasted it. He put down the glass rod, put down the test tube, took up a pen and wrote in a book. Then, with a brief nod in which I seemed to read a kind of careless triumph, in dead silence he left the room. A new flavour had been born!

The home of Lyons' Chocolate lies in open country some three miles from Ealing. It stands in 30 acres of turf. The

## ON THIS DAY

January 8, 1925

No chocolates can have had a subtler promotion than to have half of a full page advert in the paper taken up with a description by an established writer of the factory in which they were made.

long red bungalow-like workrooms are a tribute to the Midlands air. No film of smoke or grime defaces them. Broad avenues run between them. Green turf surrounds them, flower beds in the middle.

"This," said my guide, "is the Dipping Room." The dippers, with a speed and dexterity impossible to describe, took up the centres, dabbled them about in the brown flood of chocolate, and set them aside evenly covered, smooth, shining, perfect. I watched one girl with the

hands of a pianist dipping a flat chocolate distinguished by a little spiral like a brown tail on the top of it. She quickly immersed it, dabbled it, brought it out, and then, with one rapid movement of a finger, decorated it with a tiny trickle of chocolate. It was finished! "It takes a year for a girl to become a good dipper," said my guide.

A file of girls came on duty. They had come straight from the manure shop. He opened another door. In a small laboratory a number of solemn men were eating chocolates. I have never seen anyone eat chocolates with the same queer expression. You know how hens drink water with a kind of skyward reflectiveness?

"What are they doing?" They are testing for variation in flavour. A subtle difference in taste not noticeable by the general public is nevertheless corrected. These men have wonderful palates and can track down the very faintest variation.

We tip-toed away. It was evidently a solemn occasion.



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